

the Otter Realm

California State University, Monterey Bay's Official Student-Run Newspaper

Dream On?



LESLIE GRINNER MODERATES A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION FOR CSUMB

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HENRY HOUSTON

CSUMB Awakes to Dream Act Debate

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A few days before the bill's Oct. 10 deadline, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law AB 131, the second portion of the California Dream Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors).

Although AB 130, the first portion of the act which allowed undocumented students to receive private financial aid, passed through Legislature and Gov. Brown's desk earlier in the year, the passing of AB 131 has brought the debate onto California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) campus.

AB 131, the second portion of the Dream Act, requires public higher education institutions to establish paths to student aid programs for undocumented students, and will be enacted on Jan. 1, 2013.

California is the first state in the US to have such a law.

In protest to the law, Otter Republicans held a "bake sale," which was inspired by a similar one in San Francisco State several years ago.

The bake sale charged \$2 for a cupcake, and for "illegal immigrants," a cupcake was free.

Matt Bolner, who is a member of the Otter Republicans, said that citizens pay so much just so, in his words, "illegal immigrants" will take it away.

"It's not fair for some to take away when others put into it," Bolner said. Bolner added that it is unfair that they receive extra attention.

Just like any other college student, undocumented students,

who migrated when they were minors, need to attend an accredited university and pass through the proper admission standards in order to participate in any financial aid program.

Ana Lopez, freshman, Psychology, vice-president of the CAMPer club at CSUMB and CAMP counselor disagrees about the stance that the Otter Republicans have taken in the Dream Act debate.

"[Otter Republicans] don't have the right resources; they're giving out bad information to the rest of the campus," Lopez said.

CAMPers is a club that has just recently sprung up. Through fundraising, the club plans to award undocumented students financial aid, which is allowed due to the first

portion of the Dream Act, AB 130, which Gov. Brown signed.

"[Undocumented students] need more support," Lopez said. "They need a little bit more help if we want them to integrate into our society."

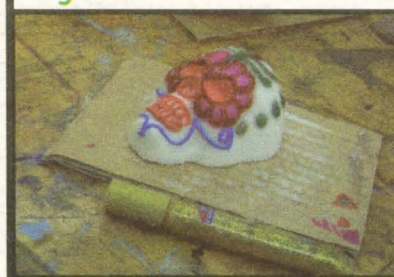
Although the bake sale occurred more than a week after Gov. Brown signed the Dream Act, it brought the debate to the attention of CSUMB's new coordinator of the Otter Cross Cultural Center, Leslie Grinner, who organized a "Round Table Discussion" to explore both sides of the debate, which was held on Oct. 24.

Although the discussion was in response to the Otter Republican bake sale, the club declined to help

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WHAT YOU OTTER BE DOING

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Designed By: Kameron Sawyer

October 27 - NOVEMBER 10

THU 10/27

CSUMB CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

WORLD THEATER

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

AUTISM EDUCATION SOLUTIONS Evidence-Based Practice with Adolescents and Adults with ASD: Implications for Competence and Quality of Life. Presented by: Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D. Director of Education, Upper School, for the McCarton School in New York City.

Sponsored by CSU Monterey Bay Certificate Program in Behavior Analysis, GIGI for Autism and Tucci Learning Solutions, Inc. *FREE* For more information: (831) 582-4227

FRI 10/28

MEN'S SOCCER VS. CAL STATE LOS ANGELES

MAIN SOCCER FIELD

12:30 P.M. - 5 P.M.

The CSUMB Soccer teams play in a California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) game at the Soccer Complex located at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Divarty Street. Kickoff is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

FRI 10/28

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. CAL POLY POMONA

KELP BED

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Women's Volleyball vs. Cal Poly Pomona

The CSUMB Women's Volleyball team plays a California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) match at the Otter Sports Center located at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Inter-Garrison Road. First serve is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

SAT 10/29

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. SFSU

KELP BED

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

The CSUMB Women's Volleyball team plays a California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) match at the Otter Sports Center located at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Inter-Garrison Road. First serve is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

FRI 11/4

MPA LECTURE SERIES: TOM OBERHEIM

MUSIC HALL

12 P.M. - 2 P.M.

Oberheim best known for Oberheim Synthesizers, has been a long time player in the world of music. In 2000 after Marion Systems, Oberheim founded SeaSound, a manufacturer of audio interfaces. In 2009, Oberheim began hand-building and selling updated SEM synthesizer with upgraded features; but with a true analog design as faithful to the sound of his original SEM as possible. In 2010, he announced plans to release the "Son of Four Voice," an updated version of his original Oberheim 4-Voice analog synthesizer.

SAT 11/5

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. HOLY NAMES

KELP BED

2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

The CSUMB Men's Basketball team hosts Holy Names University in a non-conference exhibition game at The Otter Sports Center located at the corner of 2nd Street and Inter-Garrison Road. Tip-off is scheduled for 2:30 pm.

SAT 11/5

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL VS. CHICO STATE

KELP BED

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

The CSUMB Women's Volleyball team plays a California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) match at the Otter Sports Center located at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Inter-Garrison Road. First serve is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

MON 11/7

STUDY ABROAD INFO - FOCUS ON ALUMS

STUDENT CENTER

12 P.M. - 1:40 P.M.

Students interested in studying abroad can hear about the experiences of students who have studied abroad in the past. Alums from various countries will be on hand to talk about what to expect, how to prepare, and what applicants need to know.

TUE 11/8

NSLS VIDEO BROADCAST: AL DUNCAN

ALUMNI & VISITOR'S CENTER

MAIN ROOM

6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

The National Society of Leadership and Success presents Al Duncan, with "Rise N' Thrive: From Great Potential to Exceptional Performance." Al Duncan is one of the leading authorities on youth development and empowerment, is featured in a broadcast event sponsored by the CSUMB chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success.

**GOT AN EVENT?
LET US KNOW!
OTTER_REALM@CSUMB**

FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT THE CSUMB MASTER CALENDAR ONLINE @ WWW.CALENDAR.CSUMB.EDU

EDITOR'S COLUMN You Otter Dream like an American



Crystal Marie Lopez, Editor-in-Chief
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key to this however is truly allowing yourself to see. Opening your eyes not just to what you already agree with or feel is unjust, but also to opposing viewpoints. This requires research, discussions, and a willingness to remain openminded and learn. As adults we must all be critical thinkers. Once a person has truly looked at an issue from all sides, then and only then can they truly step into the world with not just a public opinion, but a well informed one as well.

I believe there is a way to look at immigration reform without belittling, minimizing or dehumanizing a group of individuals. In recent news, attention has been brought to the many anti-immigration groups which have locked their eyes on the latino population (an error on its own seeing as not all immigrants are of latino descent). This narrow mindedness has in turn caused a rise in anti-latino hate crimes. Republican debates have magnified the fears of immigration. Conversations about building double layered walls and electrified fences along the U.S.- Mexico border only further escalate the tension and does not help in the progress towards immigration reform. And the use of language such as "illegal immigrants" (humans can not be illegal) creates mental walls that do not contribute to our civil conversation.

As a second generation American of Mexican descent, I understand the beauty of the United States is the pursuit of ones dreams and the opportunity available to anyone. As a country we have consistently said the "American Dream" is something everyone should aspire for. Considering our history as a nation, we have in the past opened our arms to different cultures and humans in an attempt to help and spread our hunger for living our dreams. Why are we damning others for taking us up on our offer?

America used to mean possibilities- it used to mean hope. The Declaration of Independence says it, "all men are created equal," and all have the right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

In tow with the ever growing debate, this edition of The Otter Realm sheds light on immigration issues. In an area with rich agricultural roots, we are first hand witnesses to the immense amount of work ethic migrant workers, some undocumented, show. Waking up in the early hours of the morning, many undocumented workers will work up to three jobs. Ask any migrant worker their purpose for the long hours of back breaking work and their response will be money to support their family and dreams. Bottom line, undocumented immigrants work low paying jobs that help the wavering U.S. economy.

The Otter Realm's fourth issue features the CAMP program and the many ways it helps children of migrant and seasonal farm workers complete their first academic year of college. The CAMPers club further assists CAMP alumni in the remaining years of their university education and because of the recent passing of the Dream Act, the CAMPers can now fundraise and award undocumented students financial aid. Furthermore, this past July, California passed a law allowing undocumented students access to state government financial aid in community college and the CSU system.

When I was in elementary school I learned the concept of critical thinking. Looking at an issue from all different angles allows one to make well informed decisions. The

ShakeOut Before The Next Earthquake Breakout!

CSUMB Practices Earthquake Safety Procedures

Jurija Metovic, Staff Reporter
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On October 20, at 10:19 AM, students and staff in the library remained undisturbed and still while working away on assignments or other school projects. At 10:20 cell phones began to buzz noticeably in every direction. Text messages, e-mail notifications, Twitter and Facebook updates all occurred simultaneously and alerted California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) to prepare for an earthquake by practicing "Drop, cover and hold on" in conjunction with the annual California ShakeOut drill.

The California ShakeOut is an event that gathers millions of participants each year and includes participants from businesses, organizations, medical facilities, universities, school districts, and many more throughout the state.

Many people in the library ignored the notifications sent to them and quietly continued their work or continued down paved paths outside of the building to their next classes. One student commented on the purposed event and lack of participation just outside of the library.

"If no one is doing the drill, it is

kind of a waste of time and effort... I feel safe here so it is another reason it's a waste. I think everyone knows what to do during an earthquake," said Cesar Delgado, freshman, Psychology.

A passerby also questioned the notification she had heard on the outdoor speak system near her residence hall while heading inside the library, "There is supposed to be an earthquake drill right now. Are we supposed to do anything?"

According to Emergency Manager, Sam Mazza, "This event was used to test the [emergency alert] system. We asked faculty to focus on earthquake safety for a few minutes during their class time as a request to raise awareness but, we know that some classes are having tests or planned in-class material during that time so it was not required."

Chief of Police, Earl Lawson, clarified "The ShakeOut was not

mandatory, rather awareness and information in preparedness in the event of an actual earthquake... Like Sam stated, we hope to reach everyone by one of the communication methods we have. With the

safety of over 7,000 people and 1800 acres of land in the community. They also frequently update their website and have an emergency procedures pamphlet available to view online and for easy printing.

"During an earthquake," the pamphlet heading reads "Drop, Cover & Hold," it also gives information of what to do outdoors. If you are outside during an earthquake,

"stay in the open and move away from buildings and/or power lines. If you are in a vehicle, stop as far from the flow of traffic as possible, but not under a bridge, tree, sign, or street light."

"We are transparent and service oriented. There are no Homeland Security secrets here," Chief Lawson joked when discussing the availability and abundance of resources available on campus through the University Police Department.

In addition to being able to notice the overall presence of campus safety and a seemingly highly effective alert system, President Dianne Harrison stated, "I feel safe on this campus and we are constantly looking at ways to improve all of our systems including disaster preparedness and emergency operations."

According to the USGS, the science agency for the Department of the Interior, California is considered at high risk of earthquakes compared to the rest of the country. Sam Mazza also noted in a conversation that Monterey Bay is especially at risk. CSUMB intends to participate in the ShakeOut again next year to maintain ongoing awareness. The opportunity to learn what to do before, during and after an earthquake was successfully executed.



EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

different communication formats, we can reach 90 percent of the community."

When asked whether or not the day's event was successful, Chief Lawson responded, "In regards to the communication systems, yes. We are happy when people complain about too many notifications; it means that when there is a real emergency event, we can communicate to everyone quickly. "The University Police Department works around the clock, ensuring

Campus Police Go Green

CSUMB PD Takes a Greener Step and Adds a Hybrid to Their Fleet

Adam Napoletano, Staff Reporter
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Everyone at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has seen the campus' department vehicles cruising around but not everyone can say that they have seen the new Prius that is being used on campus. The campus police department decided on leasing a used Toyota Prius so their parking services can use it to get around campus easier while using less fuel and energy in one trip. Chief Earl Lawson told the Otter Realm that many people would probably wonder where the money for paying for this car came from and that students should not worry.

First of all, this hybrid is taking the place of a Ford F-150 that the police department felt was not as fuel efficient as they would hope their fleet of vehicles should be.

Half of the money that goes into the funding for this vehicle comes from revenues of students paying for their parking permits and parking violations and the other half is coming from a small, one-time portion of the student fees that each student pays to attend CSUMB. By using this system for payments, the police department ensures the students that their money is going towards their protection and this will help them see

the campus police department in a better light.

Chief Lawson stated that the hybrid car is mostly used for the student staff for the police department so they can take it around campus and not have to worry about filling up the tank or charging it more often than usual.

With about four standard squad cars and one sports utility vehicle, the campus police department is happy to see this new addition to their fleet and hope to obtain another hybrid vehicle and one day, have a whole fleet of fuel efficient vehicles.



THE TOYOTA PRIUS THAT THE CSUMB PD IS LEASING FOR STUDENT STAFF TO USE ON CAMPUS.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADAM NAPOLETANO

Plasticity: The New Superpower

Katie Shoneff, Staff Reporter
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Imagine your brain is made of play-dough, where it is able to bend and reform to benefit your well-being. For neuroscientist Michael Merzenich, this idea is nothing short of the truth. In fact, it has a name, plasticity.

Plasticity is defined as the brain's ability to adapt and change itself and all people are "a product of plasticity," Merzenich said. He explained that with the study of neuroplasticity, we might be able to heal the injured and enhance the healthy. He believes that at a very early age, we are influenced and shaped by where we have been and what we have done.

He explained the process of plasticity by breaking it down into three steps.

First he provided an example of how plasticity affects us at a young age. Merzenich explained

that when a child is born, they learn by language examples, like hearing their parents speak. This creates a basis for plasticity, where the child has a basic understanding of language. This is why it is much easier for a child to learn multiple languages at a young age, because they do not yet have a concrete basis of plasticity that is acquired over years of influential learning.

The second step to occur is that our brains create control of its own plasticity — meaning your brain will only allow change through plasticity when it is in best interest of self. This is could also be compared to evolution, where we adapt and change our physical form, but in this case, it is our mental form. For example, if you take a person living in a specific environment and move them to a completely different environment, they will learn to

adapt and survive.

The final step is called the "Adult Plasticity Epoch" where our brains create a model within our working memory. Our brain processes everything we come into contact with through this "model" from past memories and influences. Merzenich stressed the fact that "a behavioral change is a physical change" in that the brain is actually rewiring itself. This is the "knowledge/experience bank" of plasticity.

"Everyone has the capacity to change," said Merzenich. "We are all owners of a 'plastic brain,' shaped by outside influences and susceptible to change if allowed. As long as you can improve, refine, or develop new ways of knowing and thinking, is to have the asset of a plastic brain."

Merzenich said when he would first insert the cochlear implant,

patients explained that they could not hear any better, and it might have been even worse than before.

Put us anywhere on the planet and we can sort it out -Dr. Merzenich

After six months of using the cochlear implant, patients were able to hear perfectly like never before.

"This is plasticity," stated Merzenich.

"Put us anywhere on the planet and we can sort it out," Merzenich said.

Brains work on the basis of how we are influenced. Since the deaf have not been able to hear their entire lives, their brain does not know

how to use that "machine" properly. When the cochlear implant is inserted, and the brain is able to adapt to this change, patients began to hear clearly.

The same goes for all types of humans whether they are blind, deaf, injured, or sick. Once we have accustomed ourselves to something, it is hard to become unfamiliar with it, but plasticity is what creates that change.

Merzenich attended the University of Portland, Oregon as well as John Hopkins University and is a professor at the University of San Francisco. Merzenich, who has written over 200 articles, has over 50 patents, was also part of the team that invented the cochlear implant, which gave the deaf a chance to hear again.

California's Hope

California Coastal Commission Vice-Chair, Mark Stone Talks Science and Politics

Jessica Radogna, Staff Reporter
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California is known for its coastal scenery as well as the variety of marine life which inhabits it. But nature itself could not take credit without at least an honorary mention of the California Coastal Commission. On Thursday, October 20, students of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) got a chance to hear for themselves, the time and efforts that go into such immaculate preservation, when California Coastal Commission Vice-Chair, Mark Stone dropped by for an informative chat on the basics of applying science to policy.

Stone, Fifth District Supervisor since 2003, earned his bachelor

of arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a juris doctorate degree from Santa Clara University, School of Law. Since then, he has worked as an attorney for the Law Office of Mark W. Stone, served as an assistant professor and lecturer for the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, as well as a President of the Scotts Valley Unified School District Board.

Now, as recently appointed vice-chairman of the California Coastal Commission, which he refers to as a "strange and unique animal," Stone represents Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Mateo counties in addition to Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley on the Board of Supervisors.

Established by voter initiative in 1972, the California Coastal Com-

mission was later adopted and made permanent through the California Coastal Act of 1976. It is composed of 12 voting members, appointed equally by the Governor, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly. Under the Department of Natural Resources, it is considered to be a quasi-judicial state agency, and therefore receives its budget from the state of California.

Through its partnership with coastal cities and counties, the Commission's mission has been to "protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations."

According to Stone, "For the Commission, this includes granting or denying approval of any development along or near the California coast—an area larger than the entire

state of Rhode Island—as in, any "activities that change the intensity of land or public access to coastal waters." Some of these "activities" include shoreline public access and recreation, marine, as well as terrestrial habitat protection, and water quality.

Throughout and after the presentation, Vice Chairman Stone was gracious enough to answer questions. When asked what part we as students may play in the legislative process, Stone answered with encouragement, advising a direct and simplified presentation of research to better "use natural resources in a planned a managed way."



MARK STONE, FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

PHOTO PROVIDED BY: JESSICA RADOGNA

There is no stronger environmental policy...than land use -Mark Stone

A Live Conexión

Rural Youth Struggles to Technologically Literate

Nicolás Pérez, Staff Reporter
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In an era where global citizens depend highly on technological advances, to be digitally literate is a must.

In the US the Internet penetration is close to 78 percent, while the average for the rest of the world is 30 percent, according to internet-worldstats.com. This gap represents an issue of fair inclusion and people's participation in economic growth, education and politics. But the digital gap is also local.

A wide margin of rural Americans are not benefiting from this age of technology. For example, hundred of seasonal and migrant-workers in Monterey County rural areas haven't had the opportunity to submit an online application, send an email or do a google search about their rights.

"Rural schools have fewer finan-

cial resources — largely as a result of diminished local property tax bases and inequitable distributions of state funds," reports the biannual study of Why Rural Matters. "This disparity underscores the fact that children living in persistently poor rural America need greater attention."

In many cases, children and teens are the only ones in the households who have developed computers skills as students, but once they are out of school they face difficulties to persevere with their digital communication learning.

"It's incredible that thousand of farm workers and their children live a few miles away from Silicon Valley and still there are few resources for them to catch up with basic technology that empowers them," said community educator and founder of Conexión Comunitaria, Megan Heath, in a talk to college students.

A local initiative addresses the county's digital literacy issue. Con-

exión Comunitaria, a program linked to the Media Center of Art, Education and Technology -a service of the Monterey County Office of Education. Megan Heath, the Conexión Comunitaria project coordinator acknowledges the hardships of disenfranchised population relating to technology.

"In general, rural areas in Monterey County, especially immigrant households, are of low-income. This means no computers, no Internet, and very little understanding on why technology is important."

In 2009, \$7.2 billion in grants and loans were invested in the installation of broadband networks across America. Government agencies set this money aside to help those living in rural regions, reports Rachael King, technology writer for Bloomberg Businessweek.

Heath coordinates workshops throughout Monterey County, focusing primarily on the South County rural region of Salinas,

Gonzales, Greenfield, Soledad and King City.

"In Conexión Comunitaria, we help anyone who wants to learn basic technology skills, such as setting up an email account, searching information on databases, and preparation for a proactive role in the 21st century," she said.

In collaboration with Teledramatic Arts & Technology Department (TAT) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Heath had coordinated a six-week workshop from Oct. 15 to Nov. 19. The sessions supported by TAT Service-Learning students focus on story digital telling.

By the end of the six-week workshop, students will have edited a short video of their experience. "This workshop is primarily for the youth in rural South County, although anyone in Monterey County is welcome."

"There are many organizations who want to see the youth in rural areas here in Monterey County thrive, so we all contribute collectively," Heath commented.

Jesús Madrigal, a sophomore at Gonzales High School, said, "This is a cool opportunity for me and my friends. My mom is from Mexico, and she doesn't know about computers. I have a cousin here that makes music, and I would like to learn to make videos so when he's famous, I can make his videos. I don't want to be a victim of the streets."

Una Conexión Viva

Translated by Estella Porras
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En estos tiempos, estar alfabetizado en el mundo digital es una necesidad.

En los EE.UU. la penetración de Internet es cerca de un 78 por ciento, mientras que el promedio para el resto del mundo es de 30 por ciento, según internetworldstats.com. Esta brecha representa un problema de inclusión y justa participación de todos los ciudadanos en el crecimiento económico, la educación y la política. Pero la brecha digital también es local.

Un amplio margen de estadounidenses de zonas rurales no se benefician de la tecnología. Por ejemplo, cientos de trabajadores temporales y migrantes en las áreas del Condado de Monterey rural no han tenido la oportunidad de presentar una solicitud en línea, enviar un correo electrónico o hacer una investigación de Google acerca de sus derechos.

"Las escuelas rurales tienen menos recursos financieros - en gran parte como resultado de la disminución de impuestos de propie-

dad a nivel local y a la distribución equitativa de los fondos estatales" según un reporte de Porque el Campo Importa "esta disparidad pone de relieve el hecho de que los niños que viven en situación de pobreza en zonas rurales de América necesitan mayor atención."

En muchos casos, los niños y los adolescentes son los únicos en los hogares que han aprendido a usar los ordenadores como son estudiantes, pero una vez que están fuera de la escuela se enfrentan a dificultades para perseverar en su aprendizaje de la comunicación digital.

"Es increíble que miles de trabajadores agrícolas y sus hijos quienes viven a pocos kilómetros de Silicon Valley cuentan con pocos recursos para ponerse al día con la tecnología básica que los capacite", dice la educadora de la comunidad y fundadora de Conexión Comunitaria, Megan Heath, en una charla con los estudiantes universitarios.

Una iniciativa local está tocando el tema de la alfabetización digital en el condado. Conexión Comunitaria es un programa que hace parte del Media Center de Arte, Educación y Tecnología -un ser-

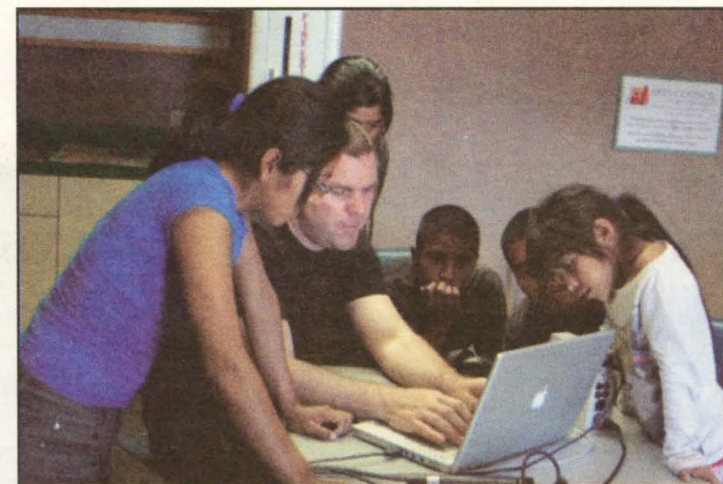
vicio de la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Monterey. Megan Heath, coordinadora de este programa reconoce que hay serias dificultades en la población que se ve privada de sus derechos relacionados con la tecnología.

"En general, las zonas rurales del condado de Monterey, los hogares, especialmente los inmigrantes, son de bajos ingresos. Esto significa que no hay computadoras, no hay Internet, y muy poca comprensión acerca de por qué la tecnología es importante."

En el 2009, \$7.2 mil millones se invirtieron en la instalación de redes de banda ancha a través de América. El gobierno ha destinado este dinero para ayudar a aquellos que viven en regiones rurales, según informes de Rachael King, escritor de tecnología para Bloomberg Businessweek.

Megan Heath coordina talleres en todo el Condado de Monterey, centrándose principalmente en la región sur del condado rural de Salinas, Gonzales, Greenfield, Soledad y King City.

"En Conexión Comunitaria podemos ayudar a cualquier per-



MULTIMEDIA WORKSHOP
TALLER DE MULTIMEDIA

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
SOUTH COUNTY OUTREACH EFFORTS

sona que quiera aprender las habilidades básicas de tecnología, como la creación de una cuenta de correo electrónico, hacer una búsqueda de información en bases de datos, y prepararse para desempeñar un papel proactivo en el siglo 21", dijo.

En colaboración con el Departamento de Arte Teledramático y Tecnología (TAT) de la Universidad del Estado de California, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Heath ha coordinado un taller de seis semanas del 15 de octubre al 19 de noviembre. Las sesiones centradas en narración digital han contado con el apoyo de estudiantes de TAT- Service learning.

Al final del taller de seis semanas los estudiantes se han editado un video de su experiencia. "Este taller

es principalmente para la juventud en el condado rural del Sur, aunque toda la gente en el Condado de Monterey es bienvenida".

"Hay muchas organizaciones que quieren ver a la juventud en las zonas rurales aquí en el Condado de Monterey prosperar" comentó Heath.

Jesús Madrigal, estudiante de segundo año en Gonzales High School, dijo: "Esta es una oportunidad genial para mí y para mis amigos. Mi mamá es de México y no sabe nada de computadoras. Tengo un primo aquí que hace música, y me gustaría aprender a hacer sus videos así cuando él sea famoso yo puedo hacer sus videos. No quiero ser víctima de las calles."

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Dream On?

CSUMB Awakes to Dream Act Debate

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Henry Houston, Online Editor
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plan or participate in the discussion.

"There wasn't much time to respond. It was last minute," Travis Nelson, senior, Integrated Studies, and member of Otter Republicans said.

Members of the Otter Republican club did attend and participated during the debate, after all, and their bake sale was a large portion of the debate.

Grinner began the discussion by reading the article the Monterey County Herald wrote about the bake sale.

"There have been extreme emotions on the issue," Grinner said after reading the article. "Some folks thought it was discrimination, and

someone from Marina started a petition on change.org."

During the discussion, students, professors, and faculty-members spoke about the concerns they had about the school's political rhetoric.

Professors during the debate asked to refrain from echoing the mainstream media portrayal of the immigration debate.

"We have access to the library and history books," HCOM professor Maria Villaseñor said. Then students can "look at it in an enriched way; have a conversation in a way not using sound-bites."

One student felt that the Otter Republican's approach to the Dream Act debate was targeting the migrant community.

However, Nelson wondered how the state could afford the added financial "burden" in respect to the budget constraints of higher edu-

cation in California.

Looking at the economy in another way, Miguel Lopez, Liberal Studies professor, points out the Dream Act is an act of social justice.

"As such, we need to attend to the larger political struggle for dignity for Latinos, those who toil daily to put food on our tables, in our dining halls. Who work to clean our cities and this university every night," Lopez said. "AB 131 says to me, we now extend our sincere thanks to the children of this labor pool by providing a small token of gratitude with access to financial aide. That for me is a form of justice — a means by which we, as a society, can in fact extend the idea of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' to the children whose parents have given so much to this nation through their labor."



REPUBLICAN CLUB BAKESALE

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
HENRY HOUSTON

Trouble With the Border(s)

Immigration and US-Mexico Relations

Otter Realm Staff Writer
and

Andrew Hines, Staff Reporter
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The highest number in the history of deportation made October's headlines. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency announced it deported nearly 400,000 people in 2011, the highest total in the agency's eight years according to AP News.

The arrests and deportation have taken place under the police program called Secure Communities. Civil Rights groups, supported by studies done by University of California-Berkeley law school and the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in New York, denounce that this program disproportionately targeted Latino communities in the United States, lacks transparency, in some cases arrests citizens, and may have taken part in racial profiling.

Around a third of the 226,000 immigrants deported under Secure Communities have spouses or chil-

dren who are U.S. citizens, a report from Democracy Now states.

The conversation from the Civil Rights marches of 2006 to the record-number deportations of 2011 has changed dramatically.

In 2006 Latino immigrants and their allies massively demonstrated in cities and towns across the country in support of immigrant rights and to protest resentment toward undocumented workers. They also organized the "Day without Immigrants" to symbolize the

important contributions immigrants make to the American economy.

The hopes for a national conversation on immigration that includes a comprehensive immigration reform have been delayed for years. "The current U.S. immigration system is in need of fundamental reform" states the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). The NCLR supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes,

among other principles, "getting the 12 million undocumented people in our country to come forward, obtain legal status, learn English, and assume the rights and responsibilities of citizenship while creating smart enforcement policies that uphold national security and the Constitution."

In the absence of a national comprehensive reform some states enacted laws to deal with immigration. In 2010 Arizona's controversial proposition, SB1070, allowed law enforcement to question anyone who "fit the profile" of an undocumented immigrant.

SB 1070

criminalizes undocumented immigrants, requires law enforcement officials to demand papers, and inspires copycat legislation throughout the nation. According to Hispanic Civil Right advocates of La Raza "Most significantly, the law makes all Latinos in Arizona suspect in their own communities,

regardless of their immigration status."

On the other side of the country, Alabama has recently been in the news as well for its immigration laws. Theirs seems to be the toughest in the US. The most jaw-clenching part is that the law, which was temporarily blocked, required schools to check the immigrant status of students and allows law enforcement to detain any individual suspected of being an illegal immigrant.

Mary Bauer, legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, calls the situation in Alabama a "humanitarian crisis". She and other concerned witnesses describe the exodus of many families and the fear experienced by immigrants "people are afraid to drive sick relatives to the doctor. Kids at school were being bullied. Municipal water companies were refusing to establish new service for people who couldn't prove they were legal."

These laws seem to be in violation of the US' Supremacy Clause, which states that no state's laws may run in contrast to those of the federal gov-

ernment.

The 29 Annual Border Governors Conference, an event to sit down and discuss political relations with Mexico and Immigration issues, was disrupted last year due to Arizona's immigration law which had just been passed. Arizona's Governor Jan Brewer was scheduled to be at the conference, but backed out the day before.

This month also marks another development that may impact the immigration debate and the overall border and economic relation with Mexico and other Latin American countries. The international trade agreement that President Obama signed removes imposed tariffs on American goods going into Mexico while allows Mexican cargo trucks filled with electronic goods past the border, as far as Dallas. This, from the point of view of economists, would be a step in the right direction for relations between two countries, particularly Mexico and the United States.

There may be a gleam of hope for US-Mexico relations

"Out & About" on Campus

LGBT Community Seeks More Representation

Adam Shoulders, Staff Reporter
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Diversity is nothing new to the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus. The school supports many minority groups by offering special financial aid awards packages, as well as resources all over campus. There is one minority community however, that says they are not getting the support and recognition that they feel they deserve.

The LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer, Questioning, Intersex) community on the CSUMB campus has been steadily growing over the last few years. From their community's perspective the need for safe places and resources for this minority group is also growing.

Currently there is the student-run group Out and About, which meets every Wednesday night in the Student Center. The group is headed up by LGBTQI students who say they are looking to create a safe environment for themselves and other members of the community, as well as to promote and educate students on issues that affect this community.

Nicole Valadao, junior, Collaborative Health and Human Services, and current President of Out and About explained, "We believe that it is important to have a [LGBTQI] club on campus so that students have a safe community to join. Just as students at a university are diverse, the clubs that serve them need to be diverse. It is important for those who identify as LGBTQI and allies to have access to a club that creates a confidential and safe environment."

According to CSUMB Service Learning Opportunities Leader, Steven Goings, Out and About was started in 2007 with support from the Personal Growth and Counseling Center (PGCC) after students and faculty strongly requested to create an open LGBTQI community on campus.

Goings further explained that Father Jon Perez, the Episcopal Campus chaplain, has been with the group since its inception. He currently presides over the group as its official faculty advisor.

Students who wish to join Out and About or have any questions

for the members of the group can reach members through their official club webpage on the school's MyCSUMB club portal.

A new resource that has opened on campus this month is the support group SHOUT (Support and Healing for OUTters.) This is a monthly support group that is currently hosted by the PGCC. Christiane Dettinger, who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and counselor at the PGCC, is the support group leader and conducts the anonymous meetings.

Dettinger explains that the group came about after LGBT students expressed a desire to have a group where they could talk about their coming out stories and challenges in a safe and confidential setting while getting support from both their peers and counselors.

SHOUT will meet two more times during this fall on November 9 and 30 in the CSUMB student center. Students who are interested in finding out more about SHOUT can contact the PGCC.

While many students see the opening of a cross-cultural center



THE OUT AND ABOUT CLUB SHOWS THEIR TRUEST COLORS

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
ADAM SHOULDERS

in the Student Center as a positive step towards furthering LGBTQI inclusion on campus, there are members of the LGBTQI community who feel as though it may not be enough. Aaron Snyder, senior, Environmental Science and Technology, responded to the idea, "...it sounds nice but there are foreseeable problems as the [LGBT] community faces different challenges and has different needs than cultural and ethnic minority groups... we [the LGBT community] should not be lumped together under this 'cross-cultural minority' banner."

While there are many minority groups on campus that have distinct resources, the LGBTQI community says they are still working

towards creating a campus environment that is safe and welcoming for all students.

According to both students and faculty there are very few resources at CSUMB which members of this community can utilize, and while the school is starting to welcome LGBTQI students more openly, there are those who feel like changes are not happening quickly enough, Valadao openly expressed her opinion. "I think that CSUMB puts on an act like they care about the LGBT community but when it comes down to it CSUMB is just like the rest of society. We are treated differently and have to fight to make things happen."

I'm Coming Out!

CSUMB Students Celebrate National Coming Out Day

Adam Shoulders, Staff Reporter
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On October 11, in cities all across the United States, members of the LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Intersex) community celebrated what is known as National Coming Out Day.

This date, recognized by major civil rights groups such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG), and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), has celebrated strides in the gay civil rights movement and issues pertaining to this minority community since a defining march on Washington D.C. in which over half a million people participated way back in 1987.

When asked what the phrase

"coming out" meant to them, Nicole Valadao, senior, Collaborative Health & Human Services, and President of California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB's) Out and About Club (The campus LGBTQI group) explained, "Coming out is identifying your sexual orientation and gender identity and then disclosing the information to others."

LGBTQI students on the CSUMB campus celebrated this national day throughout the week of October 10-14. Activities included setting up a table with information about LGBT resources, flying the Rainbow Flag (which is the official flag that represents the LGBTQI community), creating sidewalk chalk "art" around campus, and hosting discussion panels in par-

ticipating classes pertaining to the issue of "coming out".

The students who volunteered for the in-class panels shared with peers and professors stories of their personal experiences of "coming out" and answered questions during an open forum discussion.

Panel participant Aaron Snyder, senior, Environmental Science and Technology Policy, explained he was happy the panelists felt welcomed to share their personal struggles with CSUMB students and that he hoped it would help others understand what it is like to "come out."

CSUMB faculty and teachers were welcoming and expressed appreciation and support for the panelists. Head of CSUMB Journalism and Media Studies, Dr. Estella Porras complimented the panels, "I think the panel was a unique encounter of authentic, intense communication that the audience will remember forever. The honesty and beauty of the coming out stories and the vulnerability of the

presenters became their strength. In very few occasions the classroom becomes this space of sharing intimacy that generates an opportunity for learning and compassion."

Student reaction to the in-class panels have been mixed but mostly positive. Jurija Metovic, junior, Human Communications, said, "I found it to be very eye-opening and definitely appreciated seeing different sides to the [coming out] stories... it is valuable to hear the stories told... I have a different and positive look for the [LGBTQI] community."

The week also marked the first meeting of CSUMB's SHOUT (Support and Help for OUTters [a play on the word "otters"]). Support from the campus Personal Growth and Counseling Center (PGCC) lead the new student group. According to the SHOUT faculty advisors, the group was formed at the request of LGBTQI students seeking a safe and confidential environment to tell their coming out stories as well as gain support from their peers.

With the support from CSUMB the LGBTQI members of the student body have been able to express themselves as well as educate others on the issues they say the LGBTQI community are facing every day. "I think the panels have been a wonderful thing. It lets me tell people about who I am in a safe and educational setting.... We've gotten tons of positive reactions from the students we've talked to and it's just an all around positive, albeit nerve-wracking, experience," said Finn McMillan, junior, Social and Behavioral Science, in response to his participation in the educational panels.

Those seeking more information on LGBTQI resources on campus, are encouraged to contact the Personal Growth and Counseling Center, or visit Out and About's website located in the club section of the MyCSUMB portal.

To read more about the LGBTQI community at CSUMB, including personal coming out stories from students, please visit us at www.otterrealm.net

Sorority Fights Domestic Violence

Not Just an October Issue

Brittany Harden, Staff Reporter
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Every nine seconds a woman is assaulted in the United States.

Cases of domestic violence are under-reported because the victims are too afraid or ashamed to come out against their abusers.

Members of a sorority at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) worked hard to create domestic violence awareness on campus and let students know there is a way to get out of those types of abusive relationships.

Theta Alpha Sigma decided to write facts about domestic violence all along the pavements of CSUMB.

Unfortunately, it rained the next day and washed away some of the hard work put into writing the domestic violence facts.

Monique Williams, junior, psychology, explained "even though it rained you could still see some of the facts still written on the ground, it shows how much effort was put into the drawings."

Theta Alpha Sigma's philanthropy is focused on women's issues, which is why the sorority hold events during the nationally recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"Women's issues include domestic violence, to breast cancer, just anything dealing with women; we have been putting on events this month for a years" said Nancy Campos, senior, Communication Design, and president of Theta Alpha Sigma.

On Oct. 4 the sorority hosted guest speakers from the Young Women's Christian Association, and from My Strength, both of whom are avid in protecting those who have been abused.

During this event, Evangelina Ochoa, who survived a domestic violence relationship, said that she did not know back then that there were people and places where she could go to get help. Ochoa's main motivation to escape the abusive relationship was her son.

Ochoa added that women should not allow themselves to be abused by continuing through those abusive experiences.

On Oct. 11, the sorority invited a mixed martial artist to teach students who attended the workshop basic self-defense techniques to ward off predators.

In order to provide examples of domestic violence scenarios, Theta Alpha Sigma showcased the movie For Colored Girls on Oct. 18.

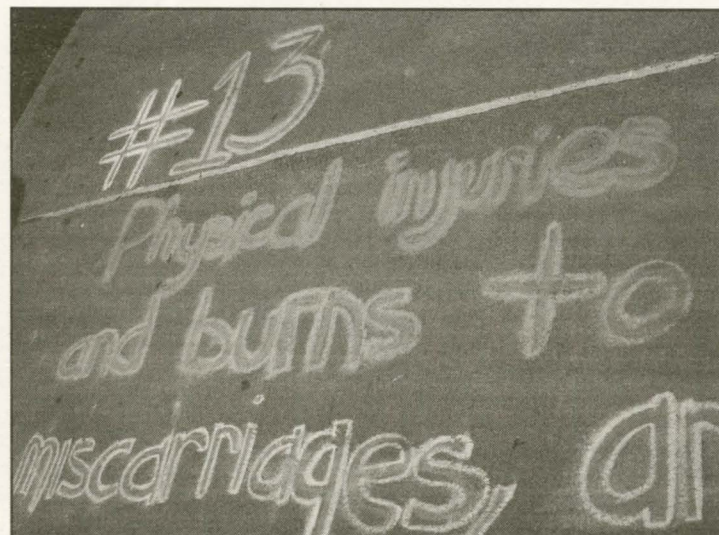
Although October is ending, Theta Alpha Sigma does not rest on the subject of women's issues.

On March the sorority will organize the nationally known event "Take Back the Night" in which students are invited to march around the campus to show that women should not be afraid to walk at night.

Monique Williams, junior, Psychology, agrees that even though domestic violence awareness month is in October it is something to be celebrated throughout the year.

Nancy Campos hopes that "students take the information we have given them about getting help and knowing that there are organizations like the YMCA that can help you if you are going through domestic violence abuse and need to get out or a safe place to stay."

Originally, Domestic Violence Awareness was only celebrated on "Day of Unity" during October 1981



ACTIONS ARE LOUDER AS THESE FACTS WERE WRITTEN ACROSS THE WALKWAYS IN THE CSUMB MAIN QUAD

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRITTANY HARDEN

by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Six years later, "Day of Unity" became a month long celebration declaring that women and children should not be abused. Although most cases involve women and children, men are not immune from being involved in domestic violence cases.

Domestic violence can be described as a pattern of habitual

abusive behaviors that include physical, sexual, and psychological attacks that are often used to gain or maintain control in a strong and stable relationship.

If you are being affected by a domestic violent relationship there is help for you at the National Domestic hotline that is open 24 hours, 365 days of the year at 1-800-799-SAFE [7233].

Otter Make a Difference Day

Student Volunteers Help their Surrounding Communities

Katie Shoneff, Staff Reporter
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When it comes to making a difference, the majority of us write a list of how we can help, but fail to accomplish anything with the busyness of everyday life. Being a college student is no exception. From capstones to research projects and labs, finding time to help others, while still helping ourselves becomes increasingly difficult.

With the help of USA Today, Make a Difference Day was created over 20 years ago and aims to help "clean and landscape community schools, paint homeless shelters, walk to raise research funds for AIDS and breast cancer, plant trees, and host parties for needy kids at shelters" amongst many other services.

On October 22, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students were given opportunities

to volunteer all over the Monterey County area.

This year, students participated in various events throughout Monterey, Salinas, and Seaside. "Therapy Studio Refreshing" placed volunteers at a small unit in Seaside which, after cleaned and fixed, will be used as a massage therapy office for AIDS/HIV patients.

Operation Care and Comfort asked students to write cards and letters of support and thanks which they sent to troops overseas. O.C.C. sends over 1,500 letters and packages to troops overseas every three months.

The Salinas Valley Food and Wine Festival was also a part of Make a Difference Day, where a multitude of students volunteered with set-up and registration to helping in the beer garden and with crowd

control. Other Salinas volunteer-sites included "Make a Difference in Chinatown" where 60 volunteers gathered at the Chinatown Community Gardens to help with gardening, trash pick-up, painting, natural building, composting, and landscaping.

In Seaside, volunteers took the fields of Fort Ord to help with recreation site cleanup, weed wacking, and native seed collecting. The Bureau of Land Management and Sustainable Seaside encouraged students to help with the National Public Lands Day, concurrent with Make a Difference Day, as a way to "acquaint them with the incredible resource that Fort Ord lands offers."

Another beautification crew was assembled in the Seaside area, this time to help Shelter Outreach Plus, a women's domestic violence/

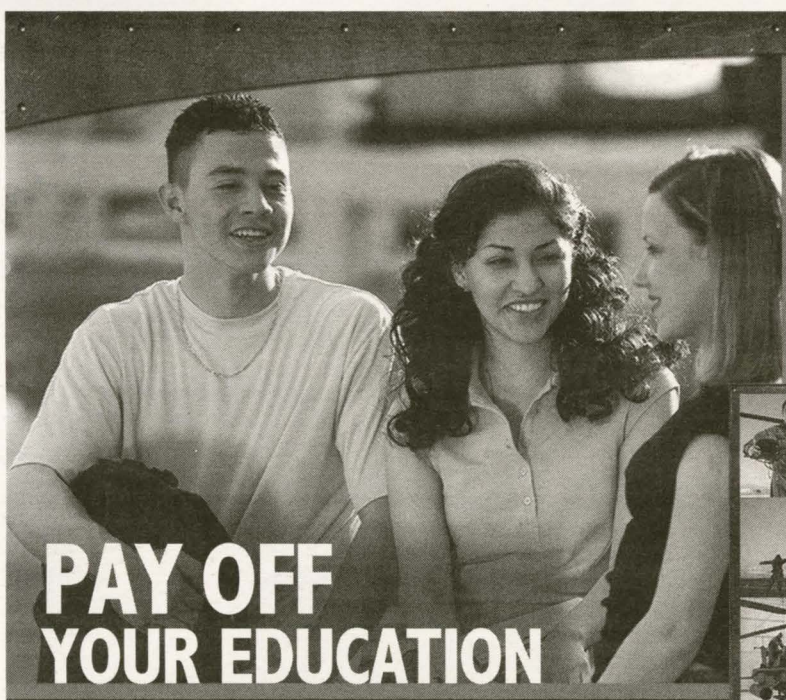
homeless shelter. Volunteers were asked to help with yard maintenance, weeding, mowing, tree trimming, and refinishing patio furniture in order to beautify the women's shelter and make it a more welcoming place for women.

"This year the Equestrian Sports Club on campus hosted a charity Kickball tournament for the SPCA and I am organizing a team to go out and support that service program and the SPCA," stated Duane Lindsay, a fourth year student at CSUMB.

All over the country, men, women, and children gather together to help all parts of their communities. "Service days are huge for communities and also for students. By enriching the importance of giving back in a student's life will help build in the need to always give


back to our communities throughout life. It is a cycle, we are taught to give back through service days and we pass down the importance," said Lindsay.

Make a Difference Day is just one nationally known day of service, but what it is encouraging is not to wait for October 22 every year to go out and help, but to offer your services daily, even in the smallest instances. When asked about the most important part of service days like these, Lindsay replied, "Giving back, clear and simple. Not just does it build community and help our community, rather if it is feeding the needy or cleaning up green space, but it also helps build better people and instill inside one that it is important to help others and give back."



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Disability Awareness Week

Academics Available for All Students

Ayanna Keeling, Staff Reporter
ALL CAPS@CSUMB.EDU

Student Disabilities resources is a great place to learn of and appreciate the diversity on campus. There are several ways California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) provides personal and academic support services for all students. Many students believe that it is a great place to meet new people and enjoy what the campus has to offer. "When I went to the Student Disabilities resources department, the people were extremely welcoming, even though I just needed to borrow a pen and paper," said Stefanie Shephard, BUS.

a sense of unity amongst the campus community. The history behind the Disability movement was extremely powerful, and many students were able to learn more about what they did not necessarily know. "I had no idea that there were so many resources available, and it is great that CSUMB is so supportive to their students," said Johnny Hall, community member. Many students that were involved, felt a sense of belonging and hope amongst their peers.

mativ event that took place this month was the Health and Wellness center open house, on Thursday, October 13, from 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 p.m. The open house was informational, very inclusive and accessible for all students involved.

I plan on sending my daughter here next fall, and I was curious to find out what other resources were available for her
-Marina Gutterez

The information was again very informative and real. The open house was held in building 80 on the CSUMB campus,

Student Disabilities Resources offer students advising, note-taking, priority registration, among other services. In order to ensure a fair learning environment throughout the campus as well as the outside community, these resources are highly recommended for all. Staff members work closely with students, faculty, and many other outlets of the university to coordinate each student's needs. In doing so, the Student Disabilities Resource Center allows students to develop into models of the CSUMB spirit, thereby exceeding all expectations by upholding the strong meaning of diversity throughout the campus.

The second week of October had several events that focused on bringing awareness and overall gratitude through campus life. For instance, on Monday, October 10, 2011 at the Tanimura and Antle Family Memorial library, the Student Awareness for Disability Empowerment held an informative disability awareness panel. This event was a great way for students to come and feel

which is now their new location. Student Disability Resources is located in Health and Wellness Services at 6012 General Jim Moore Blvd. at Inter-Garrison Road. Students and community members gathered around building 80 to take advantage of this event. Many community members and prospective students wanted a taste of what CSUMB has to offer their students. "I plan on sending my daughter here next fall, and I was curious to find out what other resources were available for her," said Marina Gutterez, community member. Many people wanted to know how many off campus resources were available as well. "My children should be able to get to know the school as well as the outside community, in order to make a home away from home," says Jordyn Smith, community member. In order to achieve success here at CSUMB, all students shouldn't be judged or labeled, but rather appreciated and respected. For more information, contact student_disability_resources@csumb.edu or call (831) 582-3672.

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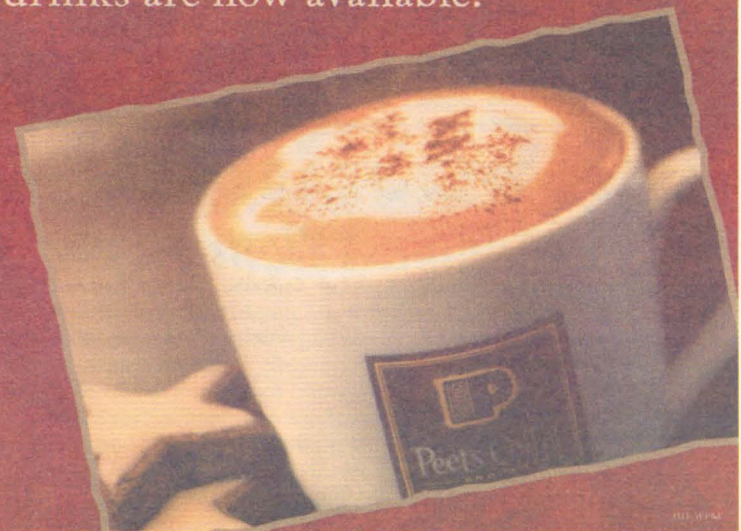
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the DC



csumb.org/dining

CSUMB Celebrates Día de Los Muertos

Erika Murillo, Staff Reporter
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Sugar skulls decorated with colored frosting adorning an altar filled with yellow and orange marigolds, a flower used to represent the dead. Pictures of the deceased are overlooking all the rich food and drink they enjoyed during their time on earth. Día de los Muertos is a celebration in which those who have passed are both remembered and celebrated.

This year the Visual and Public Arts (VPA), department will host its annual student run, Día de Los Muertos celebration on Tuesday Nov. 1. The event is to start at the California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Student Center around 5:15 p.m. where students will gather in preparation for the procession. From this location the procession will start 15 minutes later, led by Aztec dancers from San Jose, all the way to the altars located at the VPA lot (in between buildings 72 and 73). Once there, students and faculty will be able to entertain themselves with a wide

array of activities, which includes face painting. Guests will also be able to enjoy delicious traditional Mexican pastries such as churros, pan and hot chocolate, while looking at different altars dedicated to the dead. This day is more than just a simple celebration; it is more complex than that.

This day as a whole is rich in tradition. It mixes two distinct holidays in order to form

what today is now known as Día de Los Muertos. The Roman Catholic holidays of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are combined with ancient Mesoamerican beliefs about death. The Aztecs believed death was meant to be celebrated due to the part it played in the cycle of life. In order to have life there must be death. Christine Moreno, Junior, VPA major, and student of the Día de Los Muertos Workshop at CSUMB states this is her preferred

holiday since she is more interested in celebrating death than in hiding it. "Society hides death whereas this event celebrates it. It's great!" exclaimed Moreno.

Dio Mendoza, professor of the VPA departments' Día de Los Muertos Workshop at CSUMB said, "It is a healing process, a coping mechanism to help those who have lost a loved one. It's about remembrance

and respect for the deceased but also paying homage to your heritage and loved ones." The process lasts three days beginning on Oct. 31 and ending on Nov. 2.

The day of Oct. 31, is a time for reflection and reverence. Families of the deceased visit the graves of those who have passed, cleansing the surrounding area. They use marigold and candles to make an ambiance for the spirits of the dead. Friends and relatives then

gather to talk about the deceased while sharing stories about them that are both fascinating and melancholic. This event is a vigil of some sort which lasts all night. The families prepare the spirit to follow them back home to rejoin the world of the living, if only for two days. The marigold is significant because of its "pungent smell," said Mendoza adding, the smell is what "lures the spirits" to a final destination. This destination is an altar located in a room of the family home.

The altar, composed of different symbolic elements, entices the spirit to stick around for a while. The marigold, said to be the main component, is joined with candles and pictures, along with the spirit's favorite earthly possessions and favorite foods. Another important aspect of the altar is the Calaveras, or skulls, which can be made either entirely of sugar or papier-mache.



ALTAR FOR DIA DE LOS MUERTOS ADORNED BY CLAVERAS AND MARIGOLD

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ERIKA MURILLO

These Calaveras are a symbol of death and the way they are decorated, using colorful frosting or paint (depending on the type of Calavera), shows a humorous way to look at death. Death is not meant to be seen as this "morbid element of life," said Mendoza, but rather as another stage in life.

El Asesinato de la Inocencia Brutality Against Women Sparks Action From CSUMB Students

Adam Shoulders, Staff Reporter
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California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), which is situated in an area with a large Latino population, is working to help in the process of educating women of Latin decent. Mujeres de Maiz (Mdm, which the group also states represents "Mujeres determined Motivated") is a student-run group on campus made up of Latina women, who describe themselves as a group "focused on achieving academic,

social/personal development, and community service/involvement. It works to create a familia to support our members as they proceed to graduate, thrive, and become respected leaders within the campus, community, and beyond."

The group is currently focusing much of its energy on learning about the Mujeres de Juarez and is attempting to bring their stories to light. Guadalupe Caridad, junior, Business Administration, and current president of Mujeres de Maiz, stated, "The acts of violence and murders of women in Juarez is important because this violence has been occurring in our backyard... This is an important issue to us because it is a violation of human rights and also because they are acts of violence against women."

Mujeres de Maiz is working to honor these "forgotten women" by participating in CSUMB's annual Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead) festival on November 1, 2011. The group is going to erect an altar that honors the

Mujeres de Juarez. The altar will be situated between buildings 71 and 72 on the CSUMB campus.

In the last 10 years, police and government officials have reported the murders of over 400 young women in the city of Juarez, Mexico, situated right on the border to the United States.

According to police reports, the majority of these young Hispanic women were raped, mutilated, and left in ditches to die. Furthermore, many of these poor and underprivileged women had been lured to Juarez to work in American-owned factories near the border that produce textile and electronic goods sold in the United States. These women are reportedly chosen to work in the Maquiladoras (factories) because they are, as investigators have said, "nimble and able to work long hours for little pay."

Critics from both countries re-

port a lack of motivation on the part of law enforcement agencies and the Mexican government to stop the crimes.

Dr. Maria Villaseñor, professor and head of the Chicano/a Studies programs at CSUMB, commented on the murders, "Think of the American teenagers who go

"it is a violation of human rights and... are acts of violence against women."

to the border to binge drink, or the people that go to border cities to solicit prostitution. Many companies also use border zones as dumping grounds for toxic chemical waste and trash. I see the killings of the women of Juarez as a extreme, horrendous, and tragic expressions of the kind of logic guiding these other actions, as well."

The victims, known as "Mujeres de Juarez" (The Women of Juarez), are fast becoming the face of a movement to educate Hispanic and Latina women about violence and to stop the spread of brutality

against women.

With these violent acts happening so close to the United States, there are many questions being raised as to how and why authorities have not been able to make significant progress on the growing number of women being brutalized. The effects of these murders are being felt throughout the Hispanic and women's rights communities both internationally and at CSUMB.

"As people who occupy marginalized positions-- brown, poor, Mexican, female-- their lives are often treated as disposable, or worse, as deserving of violence, mutilation, and death," said Dr. Villaseñor. "That these killings continue is proof that not only are these women's lives seen that way by the murderers, but I also think the government and law enforcement are complicit insofar as that they have not made adequate, successful efforts to end these killings."



CROSSES SET OUT FOR VIOLENCE

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADAM SHOULDERS

CAMP GAINS MOMENTUM

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The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has been working to help its students excel in their academic success. CAMP itself is a federally funded program intended to assist migrant and seasonal farm worker students to complete their first academic year of college. Beyond that, the program also serves the roll to continue at a post-secondary education institution and further develop the skills they need to stay in school, and successfully graduate from college.

CAMP has provided its services to 61 current freshmen, as well as 194 sophomores through seniors. This year, five CAMP students are attending school in Spain, one of which was awarded the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad.

Among these students is Sophomore Margarita Chavez, pursuing a World Languages and Cultures degree. Margarita has gratitude for the program's assistance, "I have had a great experience with CAMP. They have provided me with excellent help, guidance, and support," she said. "CAMP is helping me reach my goals by showing me the academic path I am to follow."

CAMP students are also offered the opportunity to attend the CSUMB Math Intense Workshops.



CAMP 2011 RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLINA GONZALEZ

The one-week residential program is held before school starts and serves to help its participants remediate in Math. Last year was the first year CAMP provided the workshop which resulted in a 100 percent success rate.

The CAMP program itself has gained momentum over the past years. A major success has been its being ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation for assisting students complete their first year of schooling successfully and to continue into their second year of college.

Students interested in CAMP must be first-time freshmen at

CSUMB. Beyond that, their eligibility requirements are: Students must come from a migrant or seasonal farm-working family, whose primary employment was in farm-work on a temporary or seasonal basis for at least 75 days within the last 24 months. Farm-work itself may include production of crops, poultry, livestock, dairy products, cultivation, harvesting of trees, and fish farms, or have a Certificate of Eligibility provided by the Migrant Program in K-12.

CAMP has helped students become acclimated with the university, as well as planning their class schedule. CAMP also provides a

one week residential program in which many important aspects of college life are covered.

During the one week program, CAMP has small group discussions on topics such as "Who Am I?" "Differences between High School and College," and CAMP student's "fears and expectations of college." Participants also write a letter to themselves in which they discuss their fears, their goals, and what they hope to accomplish in that year.

During the school year, CAMP has provided advising and information on the ULR graduation requirements, Financial Aid process, Registration, and Student Activities.

CAMP has provided workshops on leadership, resume writing, interviewing for a job and financial literacy. Students are encouraged to attend other workshops provided by other support programs on campus.

Carolina Gonzalez-Lujan, CAMP Coordinator, has remained excited with the program's success. "I believe CAMP has been very beneficial for our students. All are first generation college students, meaning their parents did not attend college, and have that disadvantage of not receiving the support needed to navigate through the admissions, financial aid or registration process for a university, nor do they have the role model to inform them of what college entails."

First, making its way onto campus in 2000, the CAMP program has already assisted two cycle periods, the first occurring from 2000-2005. The second cycle, unfortunately, was not given funding until 2007. Since then, the current second cycle has maintained its operation.

As Monterey County is seeing more and more migrant families, CAMP continues to strive for educational excellence, further proving why it is a confident and dedicated program here at CSUMB.

CAMPERS' VOICES



Elizabeth Medina, first year, undeclared.

"My experiences as a student participating in C.A.M.P. Program have been excellent. Being able

to get ahead of the game; for instance, knowing where my classes were located at, also letting myself know that all of my hard work is paying off.

What I enjoy the most of this program is having the someone not constantly pampering me but guiding me whenever I feel misguided, showing me how CAMP is more like a family but in school."



Eugenia Renteria, second year, TAT.

"What I like most about CAMP is that anywhere I look I see students like me fighting for the same purpose

"better education". CAMP made my first year very easy since because of the Summer Residential Program I had the opportunity of meeting great friends and getting to know the college experience for a week before school started.

Now with CAMPers Club we can as well help each other."



Ana Lopez, second year, Psychology.

"My experience as a student of CAMP Program could have not been better. I was able not only to

make connections around campus, but also to learn more and acknowledge how bright and hardworking I was just for making it to this point. The thing that I like most about the program is how you always have someone to help you out when circumstances are not looking as you expected. You never feel alone: there's always someone walking by your side. We have become a family!!! A family that is there through good times, and through really bad ones."



Margarita Chavez, sophomore, World Languages and Cultures.

"What I like the most about CAMP is the community that is formed around it. I have met great people thanks to having been

part of this program and now, by the existence of the CAMP club, I now I have a group of students (CAMPers), like me, who are there to provide support to one another.

CAMP is helping me reach my goals by showing me the academic path I am to follow and providing me with assistance any time I need it. They have also taught me important skills that have helped me mature as a student and person. Thanks to several things I have learned through the CAMP program, not only do I know what I want, but I know how to get it."

Federal Prohibition of Pot

California's Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Continue a Battle to Offer Services

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A BLOOMING
MARIJUANA BUD

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
CHRISTINE ROOT

As the United States government fights the war on drugs, the nation watches California take on "The Man" in a battle against the prohibition of marijuana. Seeking to repeal the harsh penalties and restrictive status accompanied with federal marijuana laws, advocates across the state are united in efforts to decriminalize the production and use of medical marijuana.

Since the controversial classification of marijuana as a Schedule I substance under the Controlled

Substance Act (CSA) in 1970, California has been leading a path of resistance. Directly challenging the federal laws stating that no prescriptions can be written for Schedule I substances, California sparked conflict by passing the medical marijuana Proposition 215, the Compassionate Care Use Act of 1996.

Proposition 215 "decriminalizes the cultivation and use of marijuana by seriously ill individuals upon a physician's recommendations" according to the California Department of Justice and has become the cornerstone of 'legalization' for the state.

In 2004, California Senate Bill 420, established new guidelines for proposition 215, which included a voluntary patient identification card system and allowed patients a minimum of six mature or twelve immature plants and half a pound of processed marijuana in all counties across the state.

While the majority of Californians support the legalization of medical marijuana, there are some who feel the fight should stop here, hoping the government will also

seize federal prosecution for the patients, doctors, dispensaries and farmers.

"The marijuana industry is still a free-market and has reached a reasonably good place of regulation; it is essentially decriminalized in California with proposition 215. The only reason the U.S. government and the medical industry would want to legalize it would be to make money and take the money away from everyday people. It will become all big corporation profit, not supporting the 'Mom and Pop' market. The crops and decisions right now are in the hands of the farmer's and that is where they should stay," explains local farmer Luke* who legally grows medical marijuana, although travels for business because Mon-

terey County currently does not have any dispensaries.

Similar to many other counties in California, Monterey has not taken much action in support of the many medical marijuana patients who live in the county. Although many

If a patient lives on the Ord and has a medical marijuana card; there is no legal way for them to get their prescribed medication in the county.
—James* senior, Kinesiology Major

attempts have been made to establish dispensaries in the area, it has proven to be unsuccessful for all.

For most patients in Monterey County, medical

marijuana delivery services have become the one consistent legal supply and for many patients who are unable travel out of the county, their only source.

Living on the former Fort Ord territory in Monterey County has posed to be one more obstacle for medical marijuana patients; due to the uncertainty of jurisdiction and

fear of federal authority, delivery services are no longer available.

California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Senior James* recently discovered he lost his one legal medical marijuana option in the county after moving the East Campus housing located on the former Fort Ord.

A Kinesiology major and medical marijuana patient, James* addressed his concerns regarding the location of his new home. "I used to live by the Wal-Mart in Marina, so I frequently used a medical marijuana delivery service called 'Sweet Leaf Caregivers'. Now that I live on the Ord, in CSUMB East Campus student housing the delivery service is no longer available after they have been warned about it still being considered federal land.

This situation is ridiculous because there are established no cannabis dispensaries in Monterey County and no delivery to my residence. So, if a patient lives on the Ord and has a medical marijuana card; there is no legal way for them to get their prescribed medication in the county. This leads patients to buy their marijuana 'off the streets' illegally."

Drink Up, Monterey!

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County Decides to Build Desalination Plant

When state regulators drastically restricted Monterey County's main source of water, the Carmel River by 70 percent by 2016, the county had to seek alternatives. It was not an easy decision for Monterey to decide to build a desalination plant. With great environmental and financial costs, many alternatives were first considered, including the development of a dam and reservoir, tapping into the Salinas River, and recycling more water. Still, the Regional Desalination Project proposed the massive \$400+ million dollar construction project, and The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved it two years ago. Soon, it's likely that 200-foot wells in the Marina beach will pump 10 million gallons of desalinated sea water a day.

There is not a single entity which decided to pass the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the project. It represents collaboration among municipal

governments, public agencies, the water utilities, and Environmental groups and citizens. According to waterformontereycounty.org, "The Regional Desalination Project is a sustainable, environmentally sound, reasonably implemented and economically feasible solution that has achieved widespread public support."

Seawater desalination is used in 120 countries for drinking water, and Monterey will be the first county in California to utilize this technology. This ever-growing practice occurs through a Reverse Osmosis (RO) process that sends seawater through high-pressure fine membrane filters to remove contaminants and salt. This process is otherwise known as open ocean intake.

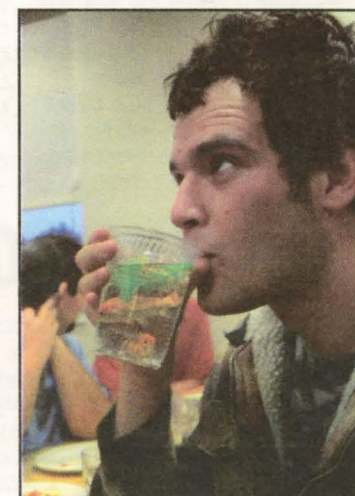
The result? Pure H₂O that will be sent to our homes, offices, farms, and schools via pipelines. Desalinated water also could be found in many water bottles from companies that use the same technology.

The Regional Desalination Project probably seems too good to be true, and perhaps it is. According to George Riley, founder of Citizens for Public Water, "there is an array of overlapping agencies that are not helpful. It's just a lousy project right now." Problem is, the environmental data was gathered in 2008, when Monterey conserved approximately 40 percent less than we do today. Now that we have drastically improved our conservation habits, the desal project will force us to pump more water than we actually need.

Due to an amplified usage of energy, it's estimated that residents of the peninsula will pay approximately \$80 per month, spiking from the current average of \$38. "The CPUC has essentially approved a project that preemptively forfeits the CPUC's oversight responsibility to protect the ratepayers that it represents," says Joe Como, acting director of the Division of Rate-

payer Advocates (DRA). The division's analysis finds that it could cost the county up to \$11,000 per acre-foot of water. Some of the advocates hinge on the prospect of job opportunities and consequent economy stimulation. Though jobs will indeed be created, the work will be issued out to cooperation's instead of local efforts to stimulate Monterey's economy.

The epic project is viewed by many as a magical fix for the water shortage, with Mother Nature acting as the magician. Dan Linehan, a former engineer who specialized in chemical and water systems, sees a much bigger picture. "The problem is, we continue to grow and there's always a pressure to increase. Instead of trying to solve a problem, we just band-aid it. We'll never get out of this water problem until we learn how to use it wisely." Linehan compares the industrial expansion to the mantra—"Give a man a fish and feed him for a day, teach him



CSUMB JUNIOR ETHAN FEDERMAN IS IN FOR A FISHY SURPRISE
PHOTO PROVIDED BY JUSTIN EBRAHEMI

how to fish and feed him for life."

Just as the oil shortage has pushed us into risky technology, rather than focusing on conserving our resources, desalination is a process some say is devastating to our planet.

*This article is continued online at otterrealm.net

Occupy Monterey

Monterey Locals, CSUMB Students and Faculty will take no more injustice!

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Greed, bank bailouts, social injustice and unchallenged corporate power are a few of the reasons for the Occupy Movement. Occupy Wall Street started less than a month ago, and seems to have surplused over night. Over 1500 cities across 82 countries took part in protests for the Global Day of Action.

According to the Occupy Wall Street Organization, the movement is for the 99 percent; students, teachers, parents, unions, first responders, families, the unemployed and underemployed to finally be heard and no longer silenced. Occupy Wall Street is to strengthen democracy and to end the domination of big money interest (also known as the one percent).

On October 15 a general assembly at Colton Hall was "occupied" by Occupy Monterey. Over 300 people attended the event with supporters/protestors ranging from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students and faculty

to local residents. All joining the expression of the national frustration with the economy.

Elise Esquenazia, senior, Integrated Studies Major, said students' attendance was to confront all the issues at hand as well as emphasizing the problems with tuition rising. Esquenazia added that local members of the community participated by addressing matters such as home foreclosures, job losses, and the economic climate that's causing workers to suffer.

Police presence was anticipated but their appearance was minimal. Opposing views did not go unrecognized however, according to Erika Rodriguez, senior, Human Communications Major. Rodriguez said while walking with fellow protesters in support of Occupy, a man strolling by looked at her and shouted, "Maybe if you weren't a fucking art major then you'd have a job you'd be at right now!" Rodriguez found it amusing that the man assumed she was a jobless art major due to her participation in the protest.

According to Rodriguez there is

a worldwide crisis in higher education due to lack of funding. She stresses that there is money within our government however it is just not being allocated correctly.

Joshua Reed-Doyle, senior, Integrated Studies agrees by saying tuition is increasing because of our capitalist economic system putting benefits towards the one percent before the well-being of the 99 percent.

At the beginning of the Fall 2011 school year all California State University students were notified of a 12% increase in tuition boosting the original cost to an all time high. Reoccurring students such as Rodriguez have noticed tuition increasing every year and are fed up with it, and being apart of Occupy Monterey is there stance against it. Rodriguez says that tuition has already increased a staggering 29 percent since Fall 2010.

Michael Frederiksen, senior, SBS Major said that his personal reason for being a part of the Occupy movement is to address the effects of lack of funds in higher education



PROTESTERS FOR OCCUPY MONTEREY

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TUBA ABBASI

resulting students to be in mountains of debt and an unsure future due to the lack of jobs being provided. Frederick says that it's exciting to see people questioning the system while trying to create a new one made by the people for the people.

Students like Rodriguez, Esquenazia, Reed-Doyle and Frederiksen are doing anything and everything to have their voices heard. Appearing on Otter Media, Open Mic Night at Peets Coffee, and aired on KSBW action news delivering their message that they're here to transform things because if not, who else is? Reed-Doyle says the increasing cost of higher education

is being placed on the students in the form of higher tuition increases in a struggling economy. This is in direct opposition to the CSUMB vision statement which reads "The campus will be distinctive in serving the diverse people of California, especially the working class and historically undereducated and low-income populations."

The Occupy movement seeks to transform the relationship between the people who manage the institution; the administrators, and the people who actually make the university work; the staff, faculty and students.

US Mail On the Verge of Delivering Its Last Letters

Longtime American Mainstay in the Fiscal Sleet n' Snow

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Last month, the United States Postal Service (USPS) alerted the nation that due to their \$9.2 billion deficit, they might collapse by next summer. More than half of that total is due to a health care fund for future retirees that must be paid annually. Speaking in front of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe declared that for the USPS to achieve sustainable standards by 2015, annual costs must be somehow slashed of \$20 billion.

In return, Congress granted a six-week spending measure in the first week of October. The measure gives the USPS until Nov. 18 to decide how to find the funding for the pre-retirement plan.

Donahoe has already suggested that the elimination of this program is crucial for the survival of the postal service.

The White House responded with a proposal that agreed with many of the measures suggested by Donahoe, including the stoppage of delivery of mail on Saturdays. Other measures proposed include an expansion of current policies such as allowing the sale of more types products at posts offices and raising the current price of stamps again, which has already been bumped to 45 cents beginning next year. The White House also urged Congress to immediately give back \$7 billion already paid by the USPS for future retirement and health care costs.

The House of Representatives then advanced a measure that concurred with the President's as-

essment to end Saturday services, but further called for more policy expansions, such as the allowing of advertisements at post offices and on mail trucks, as well as a gradual phasing-out of most deliveries for personal mailboxes, in hopes of encouraging the use of neighborhood (or cluster) mailboxes.

The news came on top of July's announcement from the USPS

that a proposed 3,700 post offices nationally will be closing within the next year to cut costs. The USPS released a specified proposal of office closures the next month and, of the over 100 offices in California on the alleged chopping block, none are in Monterey County.

Stamp prices have already bumped up again to 45 cents, starting next year

In September, a Federal Register notice from the USPS proposed plans to close over 300 processing plants while cutting around 35,000 jobs in the next twenty-eight months. The USPS has already phased out over 100,000 jobs since 2006.

As a self-funding entity (and therefore not a government organization), the USPS has the burden of balancing its employee's statuses as federal with the reality of relying on zero taxpayer dollars from the government.

On Oct. 13, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a statement declaring the USPS is not deserving of refunds (adding up to over \$50 billion) that were allegedly overpaid into pension funds dating back many decades. The GAO declared that such payments added up to poor policy by the USPS and that a pseudo

government bailout would not fix the systematic failures—or the immense debt—of the organization.

Plans to revamp the USPS are still very much up in the air. House Republicans, in a bill co-sponsored by congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), are calling for a "super-board" capable of making all fiscal decisions, including the ability to terminate employees regardless of collective bargaining agreements.

House Democrats, however, are wary of a massive set of lay-offs in the middle of a possible double dip recession.

Donahoe has been trying to break free from the government-mandated Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, arguing that an independent health care system would be more affordable for the USPS. He estimates they would save up to 10 percent in annual costs with a separate system.

This Is Halloween, Or Is It?

The Different Ways of Celebrating the Coming of Fall

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Three out of ten Americans do not plan on celebrating Halloween this year, according to the National Retail Federation's annual Halloween Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey. So why do they choose not to celebrate Halloween? Maybe they do not believe in the tradition of the holiday. Or maybe they do celebrate something—it is just not Halloween.

No matter the reason, the fact is that not all Americans celebrate the candy and costume-filled day. But that does not mean they have no cause for celebration.

For those Americans who may not believe in the tradition of Halloween, "Harvest Festivals" are one alternative to the celebration. Known to be a celebration of the land, harvest festivals have become a common theme of business and

school celebrations. This year in Carmel the Barnyard will be holding a harvest festival benefiting HOPE services, which "assists individuals with developmental disabilities to live and participate in their communities."

The festival will provide trick-or-treating, music, face painting and pony rides for children throughout the whole Barnyard Shopping Village on Sunday October 30 from 2-5 p.m. Both the YMCA and Boys and Girls club of Monterey County will also be holding their own harvest festivals in light of the holiday season. The Salinas YMCA on Clay Street will be the site of the annual festival that will include holiday crafts and a costume contest for K - 6th. The Seaside Boys and Girls Club will be the site of its first annual Harvest Festival. This event is

free to the public and will provide trick-or-treating fun for all children.

For those Americans who feel as though Halloween should hold a deeper meaning than it does, "Jesus Ween," also known as World Evangelist Day, is the faith-based alternative. According to the official website, Jesus Ween is "focused on helping people live better lives through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....We see October 31 as a day to expect a gift of salvation and re-think receiving Jesus." To participate in this celebration is easier than most would think. Individuals can show their devotion simply by changing the "treats" they hand out to trick-or-treaters. Instead of handing out candy, they hand out pocket size bibles, Christian musical or teaching CDs (both new and personal),

poems, etc. And instead of the common costumes, participants are supposed to wear white to symbolize their righteousness.

For those Americans who celebrate a holiday different from the traditional Halloween, the "Day of the Dead" (or Dia de los Muertos) is the Mexican tradition that celebrates those who have passed on. The celebration commences every first and second of November combining both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. The celebration is filled with decorative altars that are used as the holders of the offerings, which the family of the deceased find necessary for the afterlife journey that their family member is on. Personal offerings, pictures of the deceased and candles are also used to decorate the altar in order to light the path for the spirits. If you

would like to be a part of this celebration of culture, Oldtown Salinas is the place to be on Wednesday, November 2. The Steinbeck Center [of Salinas] will host a family-friendly event from 5-8 p.m. Participants can join the walking procession at 5 p.m. from Hartnell College to the National Steinbeck Center for delicious food, drink, performances by the Yaocuahtli Aztec Dancers and of course family.

Whatever your choice is of celebrating this fall season, know there is something out there for everyone.

For more information about that event visit the Steinbeck Center's website.

Otter Pride: Outside the Kelp Bed

Bringing Nature and Students Together

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Pacific Grove is full of beautiful homes, fantastic restaurants, gorgeous views, birds, snakes, and whales aplenty. Yes, snakes, birds, and whales. Located at the corner of Forest and Central Avenues in Pacific Grove is the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. It is easily identified by the large whale named "Sandy" outside. Walking through the doors, you are greeted by well mounted creatures and a new exhibit called "Green Seas, Blue Seas" that is a for sure don't-miss. And for those of you who are pocketbook savvy, it's technically free!

"Green Seas, Blue Seas" showcases the Fin art of Ray Troll. The artwork on display is actually pulled from a mural painted outside of Pacific Grove's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion (NOAA) building. The images are colorful, engaging, and scientifically accurate. They also help to celebrate the rich fishing culture that has found a home here in the Monterey area for the past 100 years. Be sure to catch it before its gone, January 29, 2012.

From their permanent collection, their mounted bird collection is an amazing testament to the museum's desire to share the love of science and natural history with their community. Monterey is home to a variety of birds. The museum showcases 291 bird species and 409 life mounted birds. Their goal is to help residents and visitors to the Monterey Peninsula recognize the various species they've seen in the area. The bald eagle and the

California condor are gorgeous and a must-see.

For this geology geek, they have various rocks and minerals on display, as well as a darkened room for fluorescent minerals. All rocks are labeled by their type as well as where they have been found, so you may be able to find them on your next hike. I know I'll be taking a trek out to Big Sur to hunt down the Gneiss they have there. Don't know what I'm talking about? Go to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and check it out.

The museum is full of different creatures to learn about, from insects such as the Monarchs that overwinter in the area, to all shapes and forms of mollusk. They even have examples from a Giant Squid.

There are artifacts from the native tribes of the Ohlone, Salinan, and Esselen. They give you a chance to peek into the lives of those who came before us, to see how they lived and thrived in this area.

In the back of the museum is their native plant garden. Representing three of the Monterey Peninsula's local ecosystems (coastal scrub, chaparral and oak woodland), the garden is broken down into these areas and invites you to interact with it. A natural sculpture, called "Spirit Nest" by local artist Jayson Fann, invites you and three friends to crawl in and relax just to escape from the world outside for a little while. There is an amazing jade sculpture that you can't miss.

Regular talks are held by experts on their topics, such as Leatherback turtles (on November 17) and Monarch Butterflies (on November 26). The museum is also the site of

Sustainable Pacific Grove Action Meetings, who meet on the first Tuesday of every month, as well as the monthly meeting of the Monterey Audubon Society, who meet on the second Tuesday. Their website calendar has their upcoming events and lectures, so take a look and come on down. You may see something interesting, and learn something new while you're at it.

Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$3 per person. They are also always looking for volunteers, which could be a great way for students to give back to an institution that gives so much to its community. Education and imagination, knowledge and inspiration. The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday

**Education
and imagination,
knowledge and
inspiration**

Costumes on a College Budget

Sarah Carroll, Staff Reporter
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Put Together a Fun Look Without Ever Leaving Your Res Hall

Time to find a costume is quickly running out. While Oct. 31 is a holiday dedicated to dressing up, themed parties seem to be popular within college communities all year round. Though they are fun, such events can be a tad demanding on wallets.

College students are not exactly the richest demographic, so why add financial stress when it comes to our social life? Pre-packaged costumes can be expensive and only serve one purpose.

So what is the solution to the costume dilemma: Do-It-Yourself (DIY). DIY costumes are much cheaper and the components can be put to other uses afterwards. An assortment of costume ideas are provided below that can all be assembled from items in your own closet.

Nerd: This coed costume simply requires a button-up shirt tucked into whatever bottoms are lying around. Next, go into your desk

drawer and pull out a calculator, pens and a pair of glasses (or pop the frames out of sunglasses). Boys, part your hair down the middle and slick it down with gel. Girls, part your hair down the middle, tease it to get the frizzy look and throw it up into pigtails.

DIY costumes are much cheaper and the components can be put to other uses afterwards

Toga: Togas are wonderful costumes because they only involve one thing: a bed sheet. Tear the sheet off your bed, wrap it around yourself and tie it at the top. Pair this with flip-flops, or for girls, a cute sandal, and you have yourself another inexpensive yet festive costume. To spice it up throw a braided elastic headband around your head or a gold bracelet on your arm.

Trashy: Costumes can be found everywhere, even in your supply closet. Grab a trash bag, cut holes for your arms and head and you are set. If you want something a

little "classier," grab an old flannel, leave it unbuttoned over a dingy wife-beater and finish the look with a pair of faded, ripped jeans.

Athlete: Pull out those professional jerseys, gym shoes or even old uniforms. If you do not own any of the previously listed

then browse through a neighbor or friends closet. Create eye-black with eye shadow or black tape to get the "badass" look.

Hippie: Grab those old faded, ripped jeans, flip-flops and a tie-dyed tee to complete the modern day hippie interpretation. If you cannot get your hands on a tie-dyed t-shirt you can also use a solid

one and draw a peace symbol on it with a black marker. To finish it off, part your hair down the middle and add a bandana or a headband.

visor, a camera around the neck, and a fanny pack or small backpack.

A Pair: We live in a world of famous duos (ketchup and mustard, salt and pepper, Mary-Kate and Ashley etc.) so why not make a costume out of them! For ketchup and mustard you merely need a red top for one person and yellow for the other. The same goes for salt and pepper except for this costume the colors will be black and white. To be a twin, all you need is a partner and matching outfits, it is as simple as that.

There you have it, seven trouble-free costumes sure to leave you satisfied and your bank account untouched. Themed parties should be fun not financially stressful, so just remember, the next time you need a costume, look no further than your own closet.



"HALLOWEEN 2008: MOLLY LASICKA - NERD, STEPHANIE TROUP - TRASHY, JILLIANE WYGANT - TOURIST AND SARAH CARROLL - TRASHY"

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SARAH CARROLL

Tourist: For all those travelers out there, this is the costume for you. Start with shorts, and then add a shirt from your favorite vacation and your comfiest walking shoes (Crocs are always nice). To complete tourist attire add sunglasses, a hat/

Monterey Keeps the Ghosts at Bay

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In the Spirit of All Hallows Eve, Check Out Some of these Local Haunted Hotspots

Monterey is one of the most historic towns on the West coast, having once served as the Spanish and Mexican capital of California from the late 1700's to early 1800's. Downtown Monterey has been deemed a National Historic Landmark District, which is the highest level of national recognition; this district was chosen because it contains sites where important figures in history lived or worked and where significant historical events occurred. Along with such a weighty title of history typically comes some historical bloodshed—of which Monterey is no exception—and a history of bloodshed often comes with tales of ghosts and hauntings. In the spirit of Halloween, here are some of the

A history of bloodshed often comes with tales of ghosts and hauntings

most haunted spots in downtown Monterey.

Located on Hartnell St., the restaurant 1833 (formerly known as Stokes Adobe) was built in, you guessed it, 1833, and became California's first pharmacy under the care of James Stokes. Stokes was a common sailor but convinced others he was

a pharmacist and doctor. It is said that many died under his "pharmaceutical" business, including the governor of Monterey; some say he was a serial killer. He allegedly died under his own hand, after taking poison in front of his two young sons. Hattie Gragg was later an owner of the house, and turned it into a social hub. Stokes and Gragg are said to haunt the house, and restaurant

workers and visitors share stories of doors slamming, lights flashing and turning on after everyone has left the building, and salt appearing in wineglasses.

The Monterey Institute of International Studies Admissions Building on Pierce St. goes by another name, the Lara-Soto Adobe. Legend has it the large cypress in front was planted above the body of Soto and his wife's first son. The son was supposedly a "demon" child from birth, and mysteriously died at a young age. The father buried the child in the yard (which raised suspicions as to why he was not buried in a graveyard) and planted the cypress above the body. Allegedly, decades later during construction, it was discovered that the roots of the tree pushed up bones of a young child towards the ground's surface. This house is notoriously

haunted, and tales of past residents and bystanders refusing to enter the house after dark are common. John Steinbeck famously wrote *The Pearl* in this house, but left abruptly after completion of the book.

Another famous spot is the Stevenson House on Houston St. Built as a warehouse originally, it became the "French Hotel" after the Girardin family purchased it. The father and two children became ill with typhoid fever, leaving the mother to care for the children on her own after the father died from the illness. There have been hundreds of supposed sightings of the mother, dressed in a black dress and white shawl in the nursery, as if caring for her sick children. Barbara Burdick, former curator of the house from 1940-1985 saw her in the nursery while closing the museum for the after-

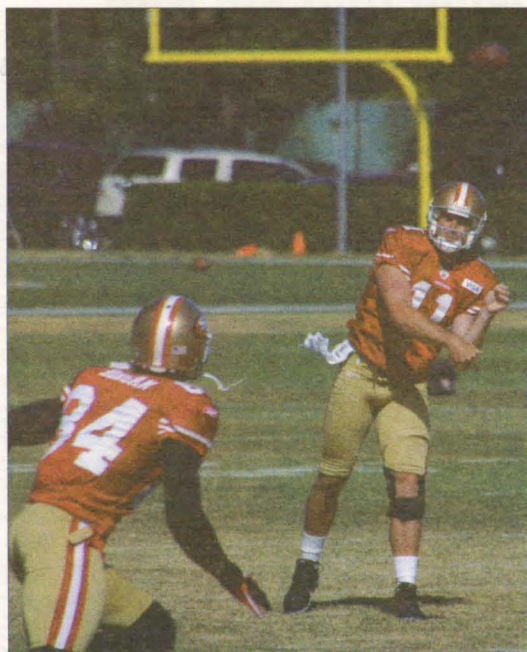
noon, and mistaking her for a visitor told her she had to leave since it was closing time; Barbara turned around and when she looked back, the woman had vanished. Supposedly, Barbara quit her job as curator shortly after.

The Perry House on Van Buren St., built in 1860, is now a special events venue, popular for weddings, but does not have a history of happy celebrations. A jealous boyfriend killed his girlfriend in an upstairs corner bedroom and there have been several sightings of the girlfriend in the bedroom as well as wandering the halls of the house.

To experience these sites yourself, you can take the Ghost Tour Trolley, which rides every weekend (for information, visit toursmonterey.com).

The Best in the West

49ers and Raiders Finally Winning



ALEX SMITH AND JOSHUA MORGAN AT 49ERS TRAINING CAMP

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RAFLES WARNARS

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Prior to the 2011-2012 NFL season, few expected the San Francisco 49ers and the Oakland Raiders to be talked about as top five teams in their respective conferences as they are being touted now. Times are changing and both teams are giving fans on campus something to cheer about for the first time in years.

Heidi Kitchen, senior, Social Working said, "I'm really excited how both teams are playing. You can tell there is a difference on campus with fans and how they are reacting to this NFL season as opposed to recent seasons."

Both Bay Area teams entered this season with first-year head coaches in the NFL and seemed destined for failure with the shortened off-season due to the NFL labor disagreement that caused a lockout.

Landon Wolf, senior, Computer Science/Art thinks, "Jim Harbaugh and Hue Jackson have reformed the entire philosophy of the Bay Area teams. The Raiders are 'building a bully' and the 49ers are transforming from 'resilient to relentless.' Both of these mantras are clearly building momentum in their respective locker rooms and stadiums. The players and fans are

ready to win and are prepared to shake off the last decade of pessimism."

Dalton Tucker, Senior, Economics said, "I love that [Harbaugh] never takes a win for granted and that he is excited to win every single week. I love that in a coach."

In a pass-happy league, the 49ers and the Raiders have gone the old-fashioned route with their game plans, as each consist of a run-heavy offense led by Frank Gore (49ers) and Darren

McFadden (Raiders).

Quarterback play from the two teams has been acceptable and, at times, exceptional. Alex Smith (49ers) ranks in the top 10 quarterbacks in the NFL in Passer Rating at 95.2 along with eight touchdowns to two interceptions and Jason

Obstacles have been troubling the Raiders in October. Sadly, on October 8, 2011, long-time Raiders owner Al Davis passed away at age 82. The loss of Davis, however, was followed by a highly emotional win against the Houston Texans in Texas on October 9th, 2011.

Dalton Tucker said, "[Jackson] has really carried his team through this tough time with the loss of Al Davis. [Davis] loved football and that kind of passion is hard to match."

Along with a new identity, the 49ers are looking to build a state of the art NFL Stadium in Santa Clara, CA. Team headquarters are already in Santa Clara and there has been significant progress in getting the stadium underway, according to the Mayor of Santa Clara, Jamie Matthews.

"Things are going incredibly well. Joe Montana and Eddie DeBartolo proposed a plan to open a sports bar and hotel near the stadium. Football should be played in Santa Clara by 2015, if not sooner," said Mayor Matthews.

The Commissioner of the NFL, Roger Goodell, has approved Santa Clara as a host city for the 49ers stadium.

Mayor Matthews also stated that having Super Bowl 50 in Santa Clara in 2015 "isn't outside of the realm of possibilities. The NFL is eyeing it for one of their premier events."

There has been much talk amongst the media and fans about the potential of having the Raiders and the 49ers share a stadium. Matthews said, "The Raiders are not officially part of the stadium reality, but we remain open to have them."

It may be a team other than the Raiders to cohabitate the stadium, as it was environmentally built for two teams. "When completed, it will be the finest stadium in the NFL," Matthews said. "It will be the crown jewel of Santa Clara and the NFL with over 300 days of sunshine."

Along with the new stadium, the 49ers and Raiders seem to be becoming "crown jewels" in the NFL themselves.

Team Otter CSUMB Gets Competitive in a New Way

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It is about 7 p.m. on a Friday night, and, amongst a whirring of computers, the members of the eSports Club of California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) are staring intently at their glaring monitors. The students are living through characters, cutting down their opponents in an attempt to claim victory.

The eSports Club, which is in its first year of existence, was created by some members of the Gaming Club who wanted a group that would focus more on the competitive aspect of the video game world.

Within the eSports Club, though, is Team Otter. The team, which consists of six members: Cristopher Wolz-Romberger, fourth year, CSIT; Gavin Leavitt, sophomore, Biology; Doug Alexander, freshman, CSIT; Casey Brodmann, sophomore, Marine Science; Christopher Palacios, fifth year, communication design; and Roy Anderson, junior, business, who is the eSports President as well as Team Otter's Leader.

Currently, the game that Team Otter is focusing on competitively is a real-time strategy game known as League of Legends.

Team Otter, though they have barely begun playing the game competitively, established some rivals for the game: San Jose State, University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of California, Berkeley.

The game is played online and players have to choose characters that have pre-made characteristics. Each player who plays the game chooses a character based on the team's needs as well as the player's familiarity.

In the scoring scheme of the game, the two teams play two games, one called Dominion, which a win will tally one point, and Summoner's Rift, which a win will result in three points. In order to claim victory, a team must win a majority of the four points.

"Summoner's Rift is a carefully crafted strategy; a team skirmish," Anderson said. "Dominion involves capturing five points."

So far, though, Team Otter has faced-off against University of British Columbia. Although Team Otter lost Dominion, the team pulled off a win in Summoner's Rift — resulting in a win for the CSUMB team.

The team's next game is against another Canadian university, this time being the University of Victoria.

"I feel like we're a lot better than our first game," Anderson said. "We just need to get our play styles down to fully play at our best."

Anderson has some plans for the future of Team Otter.

"I would like to get the matches publicized," Anderson said. He has, though, established a way to stream the matches.

Anderson does want to bring in different gamers as well. One of his plans is to start an intra-college league for certain games — including Call of Duty, Super Smash Brothers Brawl. Anderson just hopes there are enough interested gamers.

"What I want to do is to start a league so gamers can have bragging rights in certain games. They can say: 'I'm the best at CSUMB at Call of Duty,'" Anderson said.

However, the overall legacy that Anderson would want is to have Team Otter be a recognized school sport. Anderson is not planning on that happening anytime soon, yet he hopes that the person who succeeds him might be able to get the team school recognition.

The main goal that Anderson wants is to be treated like a serious sport.

"It's a serious skill, you can't just pick it up and do it," Anderson assured. "We're just as competitive as any other sport. We're not trying to undermine baseball, or soccer, we just want to stand side by side as a sport."



CSUMB'S eSPORTS CLUB

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HENRY HOUSTON

CSUMB Cross Country Tramples Over Records

Cross Country Runners Show Off Their Skills in this Past Season

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Throughout the fall semester, California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) very own cross country team has risen up from their own ashes to prove themselves as worthy competitors.

After last season's loss of a strong handful of runners the girl's team was left with three members (from a total of nine) and the boy's team was left with only one from (five runners.) Not knowing how their next season was going to turn out they were only hoping for the best.

With a new year on their side, the CSUMB runners are seeing a silver lining. The women's team gained seven new runners and the men's team gained a remarkable thirteen runners, and with new teammates brings fresh new talent and determination.

Even before the school year started for the rest of CSUMB, the Cross Country at school unsure of how the new runners were going to mix with the returning teammates. To their relief, all the runners have developed a strong bond and share the same goals, to be on top!

Coach Greg Rhines stated that "On the men's side there was only one returner (team captain James Dunn). I have nine freshmen and three transfers on the men's side. They are getting along quite well... The women took on 5 freshmen, 1 junior, and a transfer this season. Team captain Hayley Tharp, Mackenzie Morgan, and Marie Beard have been wonderful in helping the new women find their college cross country legs. Both teams' new found successes are, in part, due to strong team communication."

Over the course of the past few months, the CSUMB Cross Country team has shown their strengths, determination and, most of all, school spirit. When asked about his opinion on the level of talent he has on his team, Rhines said that he believes that "it is a mixture of both talent and determination. I have seen many student-athletes strong in talent, fade away due to little or misplaced determination. On the other hand, I have witnessed many very motivated athletes with minimal talent do amazing things

in their athletic careers. Obviously, the greatest athletes are gifted with both and have figured out how to employ each one." Each week these runners have traveled from Sonoma to San Diego and week by week they keep breaking records left and right. As a proud coach, Rhines said "I knew the school records would fall, they had to. Piper [Delaney] and Cameron [Cruse] have been showing us the future

of Cal State Monterey Bay Cross Country. Both broke two different school records each, and are now re-breaking their own. I believe we aren't done for this season, and it will be continued in 2012."

When Rhines was asked what an average practice consists of for the runners he said "We begin at 6 am. Each day's mileage varies in pace and distance depending on what the focus is for the given workout. Women will run between 6-12 miles in an average day, men go from 7 to 14 miles. The teams also do daily core work which includes Pilates twice a week." This shows the hard work each runner puts into their competitive drive and this prepares them for tough courses they may have to face at a competition.

Throughout the season, the CSUMB Cross Country team has seen its ups and downs but at the end of the day, they can lie in their beds and know they have accomplished a lot this semester and there is always room for more accomplishments.

Rhines was asked if his team has what it takes to instill "fear" in the eyes of their future competition, he proudly stated "Fear" to a cross country runner equates to



CROSS COUNTRY FRESHMEN BOBBY WOYJECK LEADS THE PACK AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

'Fitness', meaning the fittest will always prevail. Cross country racing is painfully simple, it's how you use what was given to you (talent), and what you give to it (motivation). Cross country is very complicated, it is knowing how to run 3, 4, 5, or 6 miles at one's aerobic limit, while not blowing up, and maintaining a positive effect, all the while telling yourself to 'go faster'. These athletes are at their absolute limits, not for 10 seconds, or 60 seconds, or 10 minutes, but for 17 to 30+ minutes!! Along with individual fitness is team fitness. The best teams in the country have a 'one unit' feel to their teams. They seemingly live and breathe as a single force, moving and thinking as if an entity from a 'blob' horror movie...that's fear! CSU Monterey Bay Cross Country is becoming more fit each and every day. We are coming!"



HALEY THARP, GIRLS TEAM CAPTAIN

I THINK BEING A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL IS DEFINITELY THE NUMBER ONE DUTY/RESPONSIBILITY. I ALSO THINK BEING THERE FOR THE OTHER GIRLS IF THEY SHOULD HAVE AN ISSUE COME UP. LASTLY, I TRY TO BE VERY MOTIVATING TO ALL MY TEAMMATES AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO THINK POSITIVELY DURING THE SEASON.

JAMES DUNN, BOYS TEAM CAPTAIN

EVERY PERSON ON THIS TEAM HAS WORKED HARD AND PUT IN THE EFFORT TO GET TO WHERE THEY ARE AT TODAY. I AM VERY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY TEAMMATE. EVERY SINGLE SCHOOL RECORD IN CROSS COUNTRY HAS BEEN BROKEN THIS YEAR, AND RECORDS ARE STILL BEING BROKEN AT EVERY RACE. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO CAP ON OUR TEAM'S POTENTIAL AND I AM PROUD OF EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS HAPPEN.



CSUMB'S GIRLS TEAM (ABOVE) AND BOYS TEAM (BELOW) WENT FROM RAGS TO RICHES WITH THEIR FRESH ASSORTMENT OF NEW AND RETURNING RUNNERS FOR THE 2011 FALL SEASON

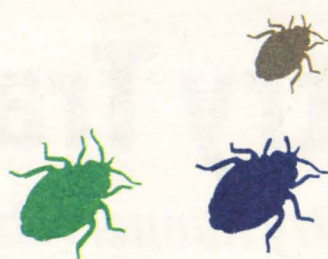


MONTEREY BAY CROSS COUNTRY SHOW THEIR TEAM AND SCHOOL SPIRIT

ALL PHOTOS WERE PROVIDED BY THE CSUMB CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



Jessica Dedmon, Staff Reporter
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Pests in Bed

What Is Really Sleeping With You

Scabies, bed bugs, and rats oh my! Just hearing these words makes me cringe. Our dorm rooms at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) are our homes; they are where we camp out for the school year, so I think the least we could ask for is a clean place to live. With recent cases of scabies, bed bugs, and rats infesting our dorms, I've become extremely grossed out.

Before I go any further I must state that I am a germaphobe. I do not like touching public door handles, but if I must, I carry hand sanitizer with me at all times. Public restrooms are also out of the question. Rats are the only exception; I used to own a pet rat. I just simply think that the germs all these things carry with them is frightening.

First of all, what is scabies? I had never heard the name before until a friend told me about it, and I did not even know what it looked like until another one of my friends looked it up in class. According to

cdc.gov, scabies is an infestation in the skin caused by the human itch mite. They live in the upper layer of your skin and lay eggs. A common symptom is severe itching and a rash. The typical way that a person contracts scabies is through skin-to-skin contact with a person who is infested with scabies.

What I personally found disturbing is you will not know you have scabies until about two months after transmission when your symptoms start surfacing. Two months! This makes me wonder how many people have scabies and do not even know it. The Campus Health Center informed me that there have been a few cases of scabies, but not everyone goes to the health center for their medical needs. The only effective way to not contract it is to not come into close contact with someone who has it.

Moving on to bed bugs and rats. These creatures can multiply faster than bunnies, and, in the residence

halls, that thought is quite scary. What is even worse is bed bugs do not live in just your bed: they can be anywhere, waiting to invade.

I spoke with the facilities on campus and they told me they call an off-campus pest control company who comes and handles the situation the same day it is reported and verified. I think that is amazing, but the bugs and rats still come back or move on to another room. I completely understand that no pest control company in the world can exterminate every single bug and rat; I just think something else could be done to make sights of these creatures less frequent.

Rats not bred for being your household pet often carry diseases, not to mention they eat all your

food. On campus all you have to do is put in a work order and they will take the appropriate actions, but sometimes situations happen and you cannot be helped right away. I suppose you could always take care of it yourself, but that would be unnecessary spending when the campus facilities can do it for you. I also understand that not everyone

minds a little dose of germs, but bug bites and other diseases can be dangerous and should not be taken lightly.

When it comes to all three of these issues, the most obvious prevention technique is to just keep your living space clean. Take out your trash, change your sheets, and wash the dishes. But what if this is not enough? What if the disgusting creatures emerge even if you are a

Students and facilities should be helping each other out to keep our homes clean and germ-free



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If It's Not on Facebook, It's Not Real

Why Do We Take Facebook So Seriously?

A couple of weeks ago I came across a news story that really disturbed me. It described a man in Texas that allegedly beat his wife... because she didn't "like" his status on Facebook. My first response was "You've got to be kidding me," but the story did evoke memories of acquaintances that have become heated (though not to the point of actual violence) over Facebook drama. You know the kind: "Why didn't you accept my friend request? Why didn't you comment me back? Why is your relationship status still single?!" These seemingly innocuous questions can quickly escalate into an all out battle—as demonstrated by the man in Texas—and begs the eternal question we should be asking instead: "Why do we take Facebook so seriously?"

Facebook is completely addicting; take it from the over 800 million people that claim themselves as devoted users. So what is it that

drives the masses? David Gibson, a Sociology professor at the University of Pennsylvania thinks that generally, it's a curiosity we have of other people along with a desire for social contact (not to mention the ability to virtually stalk other people's lives from the comfort of your own bedroom.)

With the two basic drives of curiosity and desire for social contact comes self-disclosure, or self-expression, and it's here that we begin to take ourselves and opinions of others so seriously. We like to see ourselves through the eyes of others, and we get used to posting status updates and notes with the understanding that somebody out there is going to read them and contemplate.

We begin to get in the cognitive habit of "thinking and experiencing on behalf of an audience," and if that audience is negatively receptive, or not receptive at all, we start taking it personally. Though

nothing can logically explain it, this phenomenon beings to explain the emotions behind physical abuse for not "liking" a status.

What is the case, then, when it comes to the gravity of relationship statuses? If Facebook is the factor used to gauge the strength of you and your significant other's bond, perhaps you should rethink your relationship in the first place. Anyone that truly matters in your life already knows you're in a relationship, so who are you trying to impress?

I know some of you are worried there are hoards of hopeful devotees preying on your sweetheart's Facebook, checking to see whether or not he/she is single, but the sort of people that spend their time doing that probably don't care if Facebook says your darling is in a relationship or not. And if you think Facebook's relationship status is some magical shield preventing your honeybun from cheating, you

should, again, probably rethink your relationship.

What it really comes down to in this case is jealousy, and obsessing over your partner's relationship status only makes it worse. A study published in *Cyberpsychology and Behavior* found that Facebook basically creates a vicious circle of jealousy: a person is exposed to "potentially jealousy-provoking information about their partner" through Facebook, which leads to "increased surveillance" (a.k.a. Facebook stalking) of their partner's page, which leads to the discovery of even more jealousy-provoking information. So, guys and gals, moral here is to not stress over and overanalyze your significant other's relationship status. If it says single and it bothers you, just ask them to change it. If they won't, maybe it's good that you find out why early on.

When it comes to friendship on Facebook, the line between real and

germaphobe? If the steps that are being taken now to prevent these issues are not getting the job done, alternative answers should be created. Students and facilities should be helping each other out to keep our homes clean and germ-free.

virtual life gets blurred for many people. Just because someone rejects your friendship on Facebook does not mean they are rejecting you in real life. Just because someone deletes you on Facebook does not mean they are literally omitting you from their life. Just because someone does not poke you back on Facebook does not mean they don't...you see the pattern.

Facebook is like the real world, but with perks, since you don't have to leave your own house, and you can un-tag yourself if you have a bad hair day. It is, as Justin Timberlake's character in "The Social Network" said, "the digitalization of real life." Make note that he said "digitalization," not "realization."

Too Many Babies Having Babies

Young Girls Propelling Into Family Life Too Fast



Valerie Hulburt, Staff Reporter
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"They're so excited to finally have someone to love them unconditionally." This was how a group of teenage girls (none older than sixteen), from Gloucester High School, felt when their school nurse informed them they were pregnant. Their pregnancy pact was in full swing.

This is mind-boggling to me! When I was sixteen I wanted nothing more than to hit the mall with friends and a newly begged-for twenty dollars. The last thing on my mind was having a baby and putting "adulthood" into over-drive.

First, let's get something straight. There is a big difference between girls having sex to get pregnant and accidentally getting pregnant. Both involve

a personal choice of some sort but the latter is not intentionally looking to fast-forward to adult life in nine short months.

Do not get me wrong: I think having children is one of the biggest blessings in a person's life—an adult's life. The problem I have is with today's young girls thinking they are ready to be adults when they are so far from it.

In 2009, the Center for Disease Control reported nearly 410,000 teenage girls gave birth in the United States and nearly a third of those births were intended. I do not know where these kids are getting the idea that having kids of their own at such an early age

is a good plan for their lives.

Wait, I do know. The media. That is where teenage girls are getting misconstrued ideas of "family." For

Nearly 410,000 teenage girls gave birth in the United States and nearly a third of those births were intended

years the media has played up the concept of teen pregnancy. From movies like *Juno* to spotlighting ce-

lebrity teen pregnancies like Jamie Lynn Spears, and "everyday" teens on shows like *16 and Pregnant* and *Teen Mom* the media is blurring the lines between what is "childhood" and what is "adult."

"Look at all the celebrity magazines...you can't turn a page without seeing more and more celebrities getting pregnant. The recent movie *Juno* deal[s] with teen pregnancy and 'appear[s] to take away the stigma,'" CBS News correspondent Michelle Miller said. She also points out that teenage pop idols getting pregnant before marriage

appears to have given their stock a boost.

When you put it that way, what girl wouldn't want to get pregnant to boost her stock?

With Hollywood's help, teenage girls are looking at their role models as having a life full of luxury, money, fame, babies, the whole bit. What Hollywood fails to show is the reality of what comes with having a child, at any age. "There's no talk of how -- about raising the kids. The celebrities have nannies, they have assistants. There's no reality, there's no consequences. It looks like fun," said Dr. Lisa Boesky in an "Early Show" interview. And what teenager doesn't want to have fun?

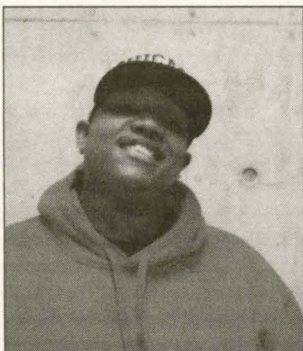
The fact of the matter is the media's portrayal of a good family life is a muddled portrayal at best. The movies, the interviews, the television shows, they all end before anyone can see any sign of real life. I think the media does this on purpose—to simulate a glamorous family life that every girl wishes to have.

So how can we help teenage girls stay teenage girls? While much influence comes from what they see in the media, that is not the only culprit. Boesky believes the amount of parental influence can greatly impact girls' decisions. "I don't think we're sending a clear message of, 'Don't get pregnant in your teenage years.' There's nothing wrong with saying, 'While you're in school, do not get pregnant.' Parents shouldn't be letting their girls date boys who are older than them, they shouldn't be letting their boys date girls who are younger than them...parents have to stay involved."

Parents and other adults must step up and be the overpowering influence over the media and be able to take a stand against teenage girls' need for an early start at family life.

Dad on a Mission

Becoming a New Parent and Accomplishing School Goals



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As a young child, I was always told that becoming a father at a young age was a hassle. It was said that young fatherhood will hold you back and place unwanted stress on you. Especially if you are a college student, fatherhood requires you

to give time that you don't have and give you unwanted experiences at the wrong time.

Well, speaking as a new father and senior college student, having a child is a joy and an inspiration to accomplish all your goals in life.

There are certain things that I must go through in order to be a good father at this time, but it's all worth it seeing my little girl's smile and watching her grow up with the advantages that I did not have as a youth. There are simple steps I am taking now on my journey in the land of fatherhood.

First is time management. Since I am a college student and my daughter is back home in Southern California, I had to find ways

to maneuver my schedule so there is time for everything. I was able to do this by making a vow to myself that I will go home every other weekend to see my family. This

way I am able to have time to do my school work, job, and all other duties that come with being a college student. But on the flip side I am able to go home and see my daughter at least 3 weekends out of the month, making my schedule busy but manageable. I also use Skype every night so I can see her

I feel as if I am on a mission to succeed and my daughter is my motivation

as she grows while I am not there. These time management methods are effective in my everyday life.

The main thing many new fathers worry about is finances. Finances are a huge issue in fatherhood and are one that I feared the most. Because of this fear, I went out, got a job and began to save all of my money. Now that my daughter is here I have enough money to satisfy all of her needs. Saving is key when monitoring money for your baby. I understand that it is hard, but you must realize that it is not about you anymore, it is about your child and his/her needs; all your personal wants must be pushed aside for the greater good.

All in all, being a father is an experience that has helped me grow not only as a person but as a student. I feel as if

I am on a mission to succeed and my daughter is my motivation. She motivates me to do right in all aspects of life which is why I am appreciative that I have my daughter at this time. I will do anything for her, she is my world and anything I have to do to become a better father I have no problem doing. My advice to other college fathers is to use your child as motivation to stay on the right track because as they get older they will be able to use your actions as motivation just like you did with your parents. If you stay motivated, manage your time and finances, and be there for your child every step of the way, your journey in fatherhood will be an enjoyable one.

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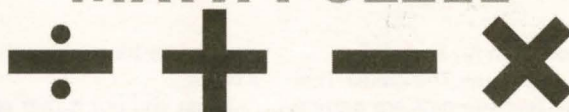
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OTTER OOPS

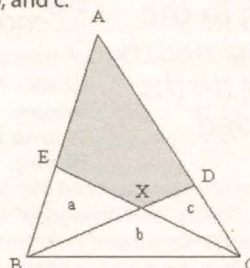
The Otter Realm continuously strives to have as little mistakes as possible. Even so, there are some errors that slip through the cracks. We welcome anyone interested in copy-editing to contact us!

MATH PUZZLE



In ABC, produce a line from B to AC, meeting at D, and from C to AB, meeting at E. Let BD and CE meet at X.

Let BXE have area a, BXC have area b, and CXD have area c. Find the area of quadrilateral AEXD in terms of a, b, and c.



ANSWER IS FOUND ONLINE AT
OTTERREALM.NET

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Otter Realm is a bi-monthly student publication produced by the Otter Realm club and HCOM 389. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Otter Realm, CSUMB administration, faculty, staff or college policy.

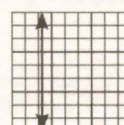
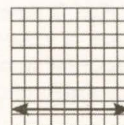
The Otter Realm serves two purposes: It is a training lab for students who wish to develop journalism skills, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. The Otter Realm Editorial Board will determine what to print on these pages. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for libel, space or clarity.

SUDOKU

su-do-ku [soo-do'koo]

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

7		2				4		
			8	4	9			
		9	6				1	
6		1	7			9		
9								2
		4			6	5		7
	9				7	8		
			2	1	3			
		7				2		4



sexualhealing

Their Folks Do Not Like You

Aubrey Madrigal, Staff Reporter
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It is difficult to "meet the parents" for the first time. My Dad had a tradition that makes more and more sense as I get older. Whenever I would bring a boy home, he would show him his knives. And swords. And the mace he kept in the living room.

My dad has upward of 70 different knives and swords, and that number keeps growing. If said boy I brought over was afraid of them, we often never lasted more than a week. It was always because they were terrified of my father. One who found them incredibly interesting was a born again Christian. Seeing as how my family is not religious, my parents were NOT happy. But I thought there was something special there, so I pursued him. I researched his religion. I bought a bible and read it. I found an old gold cross that was given to me when I was a child and wore it. This was a whole new side of me, and I thought I liked it. It turns out, I really just liked him.

Sometimes parents know what is best for you, but they want you to fail so that you can have that experience. And other times, they know what is best for you, and will force it upon you like a newtons cradle. Over and over again. This was one of those cases. This came up when I told them I was going to church with him. They didn't want to hear it, but I went anyways. They told me my view of him would be skewed. I left before they could tell me not to. I came home that night crying. I had not "found the lord", but instead, found that I was INCREDIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE there. With him and his friends. When you're expected to fit in somewhere immediately, too much pressure is put on you to conform, something I try never to do. I learned a lot about him through his friends. Something my parents were able to sense, I just never wanted to see. I should have listened to my them. Their response?

"Told ya so..."

When my now husband, then boyfriend, came over for the first time, he passed the sword test. He fit into my family like a glove, and I never had to change a thing. Listen to your parents advice. After all, it's up to you what you do with it.

I am sitting here in this room. Why is my boyfriends mom looking at me like that? Why did she call me a "her" and call the dog by his name? I have a name, what is her problem? Was I not supposed to ask her how her day was?

Have you ever been in relationship where your significant other has been the best person in your life only to find out that they are nothing like their parents? Did the animosity towards you quickly become a problem from the movie Meet the Parents.

If not some, most have been in this type of situation there are a few ways you can handle it. One way to solve the problem is by choosing to be nice and gritting your teeth for the one you love or you can choose option number two and be a jerk right back to them because everyone deserves basic respect. Or you can just avoid them all cost. Who wants to be with bitter old parents anyways?

One thing you can do it try to find some common ground with the parents and be very personable to try and find out exactly what is the problem they have with you. More than likely it is just a huge misunderstanding that can be solved. Most likely they just had many prejudgments about you and they have failed to realize that you are someone very important to their child.

If being nice and asking your significant other's parents why they don't like you doesn't help, then maybe you will be able to just avoid them. If you have put in all your effort to try and create a healthy environment and they do not comply then you should do your best to keep you and your significant other happy.

If you do not break up with your significant other because of this parental dislike, you must take into consideration that this is something you will be dealing with for the rest of your life. It can and will always create never ending tension until all contact is lost between the parents of your significant other or sadly you.

In life there are many tough decisions to make but the most important one is to keep yourself happy and healthy. If you and your significant other only need each other to be happy and live in a positive environment then I say to hell with the parents, you only get only life to live and you shouldn't live it by anyone else's rules.

Looking for Direction

Adam Flores, Student
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Love lost ; is empty space, looking for direction.
Empty space, looking for direction ; cries to God for a sign.
Crying to God for a sign ; is tithing your soul for His promise.
Tithing your soul for His promise ; is reading the Word that is written on your heart.
Reading the Word that is written on your heart ; is declaring that you are spoken for.
Declaring that you are spoken for ; is a true love song.
A true love song ; does not lie about its faith.
Not lying about faith ; gives the listener a comfort in your testimony.
Giving the listener a comfort in your testimony ; builds a relationship based on true intimacy.
Building a relationship based on true intimacy ; is the rhythm of understanding another.
The rhythm of understanding another ; is love found.

SUBMISSIONS

Ever wanted to have something published in a newspaper?

Now is your chance!

The Otter Realm is now looking for creative works of poetry, short stories, letters to the editor, and reviews. Send your submissions to submissions@otterrealm.net. Our print limit is 500 words, but we will publish the rest at www.otterrealm.net



Desiree Sheppard, Staff Reporter
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Forever stay my angel
my good little girl
forever
hold onto your innocence
grasp it
it's forever yours
for as long as you want it to be

Don't grow up
stay little
my little girl
stay little
don't fall under the pressures
you're strong
I know you are
because you're daddy's little girl

I worry though
I have to
It's part of the contract I signed in being a Father
Kids are brutal
they are
They better not make fun of my little girl,
she's a fighter
I just don't want my fighter to have to take those hits at such a young age
My little girl if they laugh laugh back even harder even louder
because as my daughter you will always have the last laugh
you always will

Don't let the other girls dictate your personality

To my little girl, Love Daddy

you're your own person
your own beauty
your own

Don't let boys pressure you
my sweet daughter
don't let them make you do anything you don't want to
do you understand me
I said, "don't let them make you do anything you don't want to"

You have the rest of your life to grow up
so don't rush it while everyone else is
you're not like everyone else
you're different
you're my daughter
unique
loud
shy
eager
a dreamer
you're my little girl

And never think that you're too old to tell me anything
I'm always here for you as your father
I will always be here for you
I will tell you the honest truth every time...
even when you don't ask for it

Don't grow alone

We will have our arguments
you will tell me you hate me
and it will crush me...it will but I will know that you don't mean it
but it will still hurt

but as a father I will have to take it
because I will always be your father before I am your friend
I will tell you to lower your skirts and to take off the makeup
You will hate me for that
you will explain to me that I am unfair and old
but I understand that it's just your youth talking
Later on you will understand that I told you to lower your skirts because your attraction isn't defined by the hike of it
but by the characteristics you hold from within
a personality that shines
a mind that's smart
and I will tell you to wear less makeup because you're beauty is the clean palette that God gave you

My little girl
My little girl
Daddy loves you
Do you understand me?

What has been your biggest challenge this semester?



Ashley Joseph
Junior, Science

"The biggest challenge for me this semester has been transferring in and being away from my family and friends."



Joanna Condos
Sophomore, HCOM

"The biggest challenge for me this semester would be making myself study for Biology and actually retaining information."



Katie Bratcher
Junior, HCOM

"The biggest challenge for me this semester has been balancing my finances with certain required classes. The money I use for supplies and gas are coming straight from my pocket!"



Garrett Bevins
Junior, MPA

"The biggest challenge for me this semester would be getting rushed from due dates for essays I have to write."



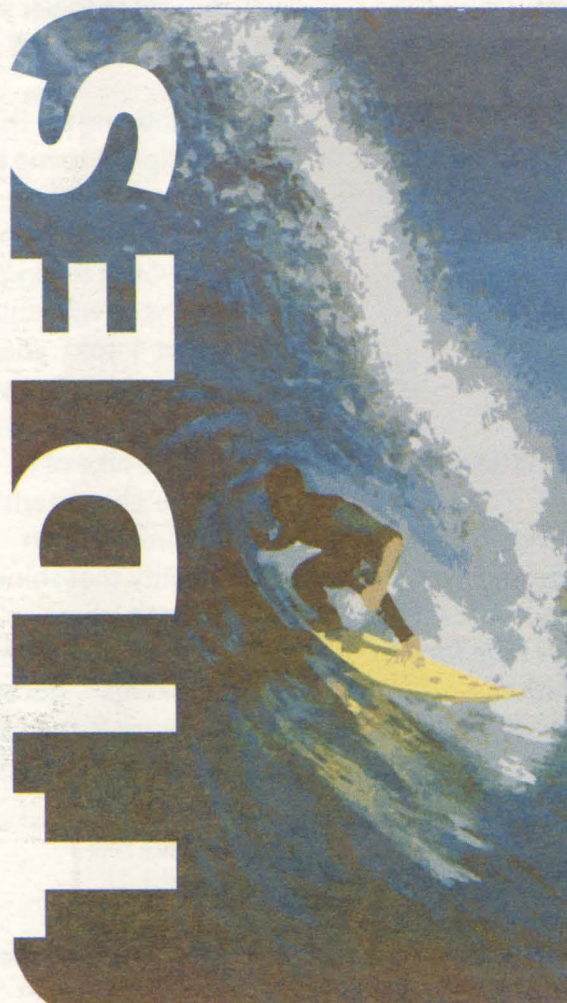
Justin Sumpter
Junior, HCOM

"I'm taking 18 units this semester and the biggest challenge has been to find the time to do my service learning hours."



Derek Basuek
Senior, HCOM

"The biggest challenge for me this semester would be finding a balance between school, work, and planning for after college... and everything else."



DAY			TIDES				
			1 st TIDE	2 nd TIDE	3 rd TIDE	4 th TIDE	COEFFICIENT
27 Th		 7:27am  6:16pm	4:32am low tide (1.8ft)	10:42am high tide (5.6ft)	5:51pm low tide (-1.2ft)		106 very high 
28 F		 7:28am  6:15pm	12:25am high tide (4.4ft)	5:16am low tide (2.1ft)	11:26am high tide (5.6ft)	6:43pm low tide (-1.2ft)	95 very high 
29 S		 7:29am  6:14pm	1:26am high tide (4.2ft)	6:04am low tide (2.4ft)	12:12pm high tide (5.3ft)	7:37pm low tide (-1.1ft)	83 high 
30 Su		 7:30am  6:13pm	2:31am high tide (4.1ft)	6:59am low tide (2.7ft)	1:03pm high tide (5ft)	8:35pm low tide (-0.8ft)	68 average 
31 M		 7:31am  6:11pm	3:41am high tide (4.1ft)	8:06am low tide (2.9ft)	2:01pm high tide (5.5ft)	9:36pm low tide (-0.4ft)	56 average 
1 T		 7:32am  6:10pm	4:50am high tide (4.1ft)	9:30am low tide (3ft)	3:09pm high tide (4.9ft)	10:38pm low tide (0ft)	47 low 
2 W		 7:33am  6:09pm	5:51am high tide (4.3ft)	11:03am low tide (2.8ft)	4:27pm high tide (4.5ft)	11:37pm low tide (0.3ft)	43 low 
3 Th		 7:34am  6:08pm	6:42am high tide (4.5ft)	12:26pm low tide (2.4ft)	5:49pm high tide (4.2ft)		46 low 
4 F		 7:35am  6:07pm	12:31am low tide (0.7ft)	7:23am high tide (4.7ft)	1:31pm low tide (1.9ft)	7:04pm high tide (4ft)	53 average 
5 S		 7:36am  6:06pm	1:17am low tide (1ft)	7:57am high tide (4.9ft)	2:23pm low tide (1.4ft)	8:10pm high tide (3.9ft)	60 average 
6 Su		 6:37am  5:06pm	1:57am low tide (1.4ft)	7:26am high tide (5.1ft)	2:06pm low tide (1ft)	8:06pm high tide (3.9ft)	67 average 
7 M		 6:38am  5:05pm	1:32am low tide (1.7ft)	7:52am high tide (5.3ft)	2:43pm low tide (0.5ft)	8:56pm high tide (3.9ft)	72 high 
8 T		 6:39am  5:04pm	2:03am low tide (2ft)	8:17am high tide (5.4ft)	3:16pm low tide (0.2ft)	9:41pm high tide (3.8ft)	77 high 
9 W		 6:40am  5:03pm	2:32am low tide (2.2ft)	8:42am high tide (5.5ft)	3:52pm low tide (0ft)	10:24pm high tide (3.8ft)	79 high 
10 Th		 6:41am  5:02pm	3:01am low tide (2.4ft)	9:09am high tide (5.6ft)	4:26pm low tide (-0.2ft)	11:07pm high tide (3.8ft)	80 high 